FRIDAY
April 11, 2025

BENGALURU
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Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Health & Family Welfare,
Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Launching Ceremony

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(ABPMJAY)
Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana(GJAY)
Cobranded Card Distribution
& Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana(AVVY)

Chief Guest

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister

In the august presence of

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Education Minister

Shri Jual Oram
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology

Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Smt. Pravati Parida
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Dr. Mukesh Mahaling
Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, Electronics & Information Technology, Odisha

11 April 2025 | 2.30 PM | Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack

OIPR-10001/13/0048/2425

DSPL-24

Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha

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'Surrender not a complete solution'

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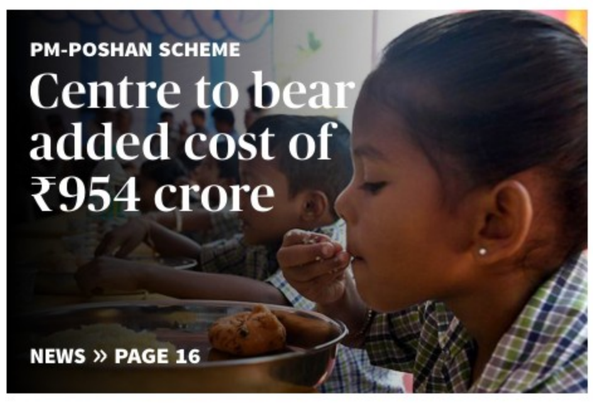

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The in-house procedure needs to be strengthened

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Dhoni is CSK skipper, Rahul pilots DC home

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NEARBY

'Rise in water tariff will hit industries'

BENGALURU
The hike in water tariff in Bengaluru will pinch the industry sector consuming Cauvery water in bulk volumes, industry insiders have said.
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Contractors' assn. alleges favouritism

BENGALURU
The Karnataka State Contractors' Association has written to CM Siddaramaiah, alleging that seniority was not being followed while clearing pending bills in Water Resources, Public Works, and Minor Irrigation Departments and big contractors were jumping the queue. » PAGE 6

METROPLUS » PAGE 11

Rana extradited; NIA arrests him

- Extradition linked to 2008 Mumbai terror attacks case
- Fugitive produced before Special NIA judge at Patiala House Court
- Judge reserves orders on NIA plea seeking 20-day custody of Rana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the Pakistani-origin Canadian-American wanted for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks conspiracy, was brought to Delhi by a special flight on Thursday evening, following his extradition from the United States, and formally arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Rana was produced before Special NIA judge Chander Jit Singh, who is hearing arguments on Rana's custody proceedings. Senior advocate Dayan Krishnan and special public prosecutor Narender Mann represented the NIA. The court reserved orders on the NIA plea seeking 20-day custody of Rana.

Advocate Piyush Sachdeva from the Delhi Legal Services Authority is Rana's lawyer.

Terror trail

Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India was finalised in the terror case trial after years of legal hurdles

Nov. 11, 2009: NIA registers case against David Headley, Rana, and others

Dec. 24, 2011: Chargesheet filed against them and seven others

Dec. 4, 2019: India requests Rana's extradition from the U.S.

May 16, 2023: U.S. court approves extradition

Aug. 15, 2024: Appeals court upholds extradition

Feb. 11, 2025: U.S. approves extradition, a day before Narendra Modi-Donald Trump meet

Feb. 13, 2025: Rana seeks relief again; Modi and Trump issue joint extradition statement

Apr. 7, 2025: Chief Justice rejects final appeal

Apr. 10, 2025: NIA brings Rana to New Delhi for prosecution

Complex case: NIA officials with Tahawwur Rana on his arrival in Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Rana was brought to the Patiala House Court in a cavalcade of vehicles, including a jail van, an armoured Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) vehicle and an ambulance. Ahead of the production of Rana before the court, the Delhi Police removed presspersons and members of the public from the court premises, citing security concerns.

Rana's extradition triggered a heated exchange between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, with the ruling party asserting that it reflected new India's zero-tolerance resolve toward terrorism, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress, however, slammed the government for "rushing to take credit" claiming that the extradition was the result of years of diplomatic groundwork started in the UPA era.

Heavy security arrangements were made at the Indira Gandhi International Airport ahead of the arrival of the special flight carrying Rana.

Tihar Jail officials said all preparations have been made for his incarceration in a high-security ward.

Born in Pakistan, Rana studied at the Pakistani military academy in Hassan Abdal in Pakistan's Punjab province where he became friends with David Coleman Headley aka Daood Gilani, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative who conducted reconnaissance for the Mumbai attacks between November 26 and 29, 2008.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Pakistan claims Rana is Canadian, denies any link

NEW DELHI
Pakistan on Thursday tried to distance itself from Tahawwur Hussain Rana. Its Foreign Ministry spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan told reporters that Rana had not attempted to renew his Pakistani citizenship since he left the country, stressing that Rana was a Canadian citizen. » PAGE 15

Beijing bites back at U.S. tariffs by curbing Hollywood imports

Reuters
Associated Press
BEIJING

China said on Thursday it would immediately restrict imports of Hollywood films in retaliation for U.S. President Donald Trump's escalation of Washington's tariffs on imported Chinese goods, though analysts say the impact is likely to be minimal.

After three decades during which China annually imported 10 Hollywood movies, its National Film Administration said Mr. Trump's increase of tariffs on Chinese imports would further sour domestic demand for U.S. cinema in China after years of decline.

"We will follow market rules, respect the audience's choices, and moderately reduce the number of American films imported," the NFA said on its website.

Meanwhile, China is reaching out to other nations as the United States layers on more tariffs in what appears to be an attempt to form a united front to compel Washington to retreat.

"A just cause receives support from many," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

EU puts proposed counter-tariffs on hold for 90 days

BRUSSELS
The European Union's executive commission said on Thursday that it will put its trade retaliation measures on hold for 90 days to match U.S. President Donald Trump's pause on his sweeping new tariffs and leave room for a negotiated solution. » PAGE 18

Siraj — a lion-hearted warrior forged in fire

The Hyderabad pacer has never backed down from challenges, be it on the field or off it; he shouldered a flagging bowling attack in Sydney in the absence of Bumrah and is now having a purple patch in white-ball cricket following the axe from the Champions Trophy squad

R. Kaushik

"Shot," the unmistakable voice to one's immediate right thundered. We were in the press box at the Adelaide Oval last December, on day two of India's pink-ball Test against Australia, who were flying high on another masterclass from the irrepressible Travis Head. The second new ball was just eight deliveries young when the left-hander picked a fullish ball on his pads and deposited it over square-leg for six.

Greg Chappell, the former Australian captain, the former India coach and one of the shrewdest analysts ever, couldn't but appreciate the quality of the stroke, even if the ball was crying out for punishment. The chastened bowler whirled around, came charging back in and, in striving for a yorker, ended up bowling a full toss that, somehow, snuck through Head's defences and rattled timber. "Whoa," Chappell piped up, as Mohammed Siraj, one of the two principal protagonists, sent the local lad on his way with a mouthful of volleys to which Head responded in kind.

Chappell didn't quite say it, but he would have loved a Siraj under his command - either as captain or as coach. The Hyderabadi is all heart and no little skill, not unlike Virat Kohli, of whom Chappell is an unabashed admirer. His verbals didn't endear him to the Australians, who installed him as national villain for the next fortnight until Kohli snatched that unenviable label away with his shoulder-charge in Melbourne of debutant Sam Konstas.

K.V.S. GIRI

THE GIST

The Head sendoff was, inadvertently, a catalyst for a trying phase in the 31-year-old Siraj's career. In defeat, he had been gallant, putting team above self like he had towards the end of 2020, in the middle of the pandemic

But Siraj's reward for heart and bottle was the axe. He was left out of the 50-over squad for the three ODIs at home against England, and therefore subsequently for the Champions Trophy

He would have the opportunity to work under the restless, energetic, wise and older-brotherly Nehra. Slowly, he is making a case for himself all over again

Catalyst

The Head sendoff was, inadvertently, a catalyst for a trying phase in the 31-year-old Siraj's career. He had taken five wickets in the previous Test in Perth where, against all odds, India pulled off a massive victory to open up a 1-0 lead, backing it up with four sticks in the first innings in Adelaide. He would go on to take 11 more wickets in the next three matches to finish the series with 20 scalps, second best among Indians behind the peerless Jasprit Bumrah. Siraj bowled his heart out, sending down unflagging long spells without getting his due. Such was Bumrah's incandescence that he shaded everyone else - his colleagues, for sure, but also his opponents, who boasted a fabulous attack that comprised Mitchell Starc, skipper Pat Cummins, the admirable Scott Boland and off-spinner Nathan Lyon.

Siraj knew he had the respect of his mates; for him, that was enough. It was enough that they recognised the effort he put in in Australia's second innings in the final Test in Sydney when India were without Bumrah. By then, the right-arm paceman had bowled 145.1 overs in the series but he knew his team needed one big effort from him with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on the line. Leading 2-1, Australia's target on a dodgy surface was 162 - not as modest as it appeared, though their task was made plenty easy in Bumrah's absence. India's obsession with batting depth meant they had only two frontline quicks once the skipper for the Test was rendered *hors de combat* - Siraj and Prasidh Krishna, who was playing his first Test match in 12 months.

Uncomplainingly, tirelessly, with single-minded focus and grim determination though he knew in his heart of hearts that he was fighting a losing battle, Siraj stormed in, using the scrambled seam and the upright one as his ally. He had made a poor start to India's defence of their middling target, bowling a ball so down leg to Konstas that the sprawling Rishabh Pant had no chance of stopping it. One could sense his desperation to make an early impact, an early inroad. It was a classic example of trying too hard, a much-abused cliché but perfectly justified in this instance.

What other choice did he have? He was the leader of the pack, playing his 36th Test. He had to carry with him a partner in only his third game. It was on their shoulders that India's slender hopes lay. So Siraj and Prasidh ran in, looking for wickets. Runs came freely as they inevitably would when the quest is for wickets. Prasidh threatened briefly with the wickets of Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith in the space of seven deliveries, this after Siraj had picked up his 100th Test stick by accounting for Konstas. But with each passing ball, this pair was bushed. Prasidh at least was match-fresh, even if he had bowled a lot in the nets. Siraj, spent and running almost on empty, plugged away manfully in a marathon 11-over burst.

Australia cantered home, by six wickets, to round off a 3-1 triumph while within the Indian dressing room, amid the gloom of surrendering the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time since 2017, there was praise for Siraj (and Prasidh). In defeat, he had been gallant, putting team above self like he had towards the end of 2020, in the middle of the pandemic. On tour with the jumbo-sized squad on their multi-format showdown against Australia marked by quarantines and isolation and social distancing, Siraj lost his father. If he returned to Hyderabad to be with his family, he wouldn't be able to fly back out to Australia. Heeding then head coach Ravi Shastri's exhortations and his mother's words, Siraj opted to stay on with the team, even though he was forced to spend long, depressing evenings all by himself because squad members were prevented from visiting each other. It was a huge examination of the young man's character; he came through with flying colours, making his debut in Melbourne in the second Test, then picking up a maiden five-for in the historic win at the Gabba.

But Siraj's reward for heart and bottle this time around was the axe. He was left out of the 50-over squad for the three ODIs at home against England, and therefore subsequently for the Champions Trophy, ostensibly because of his diminishing efficiency as the ball got older. It was another terrible, terribly unexpected setback for a man who has reasonable familiarity with terrible, terribly unexpected setbacks. Siraj could allow the grass to grow under his feet, or...

By this time, Siraj was bracing for life with a new IPL franchise. After a promising first season with Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2017 when he took 10 wickets in six outings, Siraj moved to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (then Bangalore) in 2017, where he spent seven long, successful seasons. He stacked up 83 wickets in 87 matches but ahead of the mega auction last November, RCB let him go, like they had let Yuzvendra Chahal, their ace leggie, move on a couple of years previously. Siraj found a new home – at Gujarat Titans, champions on debut in 2022 and runners-up the following year. He would have the opportunity to work under the restless, energetic, wise and older-brotherly Ashish Nehra, he would have the chance to further his development as a white-ball bowler, as a T20 bowler.

Oh, and he would have the added motivation of an early crack at his former franchise, the one that had unceremoniously dumped him. Surely, revenge was on the cards?

It surely was. In front of a raucous crowd at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium that, until last season, was firmly behind him, Siraj decided to show the fans and his opponents exactly what they had passed up. He was hostile, he was accurate, probing, relentless. Devdutt Padikkal and Phil Salt packed off in a magnificent first spell of 3-0-15-2, top-scorer Liam Livingstone accounted for in his next. Final figures of three for 19, the Player of the Match honours as RCB slumped to their first defeat of the season.

It was a terrific riposte from the man whose stint with the Titans had begun with a forgettable spell of none for 54 in a 11-run loss to Punjab Kings at their Ahmedabad home. The process of atonement had taken shape at the same venue four days later when he cleaned up Rohit Sharma (with a beauty) and Ryan Rickelton in his opening spell to set up a comfortable 36-run victory. Player of the Match against RCB was an extension of the redemption song, though this must have been particularly sweet because of where, and against whom, that success had come.

But he was only just warming up. Within four nights of having wrecked RCB, he was back in the city of his birth, gearing up for battle against his original franchise. Siraj is a poster boy in Hyderabad, a shining example of how far bloody-minded determination, allied with excellent skills, can take one.

Against inarguably the most dreaded batting line-up of the IPL – never mind the recent meltdowns – he plotted a magnificent coup. Old nemesis Travis Head was dismissed in the first over, the dangerous Abhishek Sharma in the fifth. For the third game in a row, Siraj had picked up two wickets in his first spell. For the second outing in succession, he was the Player of the Match – four for 17 was largely responsible for SRH, last year's finalists, limping to 152 for eight. From the dizzying heights of 286 for six just two weeks previously, against Rajasthan Royals.

After five matches this season, Siraj has 10 wickets – before RCB's clash against Delhi Capitals on Thursday, only Noor Ahmad (11) had more wickets – but what's remarkable is his economy.

Despite bowling at least two, sometimes three, overs in the PowerPlay and then coming back at the death, Siraj is going at only 7.70 runs per over, well below his IPL economy of 8.60 and an overall T20 economy of 8.19 in 146 matches. Slowly, he is making a case for himself all over again. Despite cutting his teeth in international cricket in the 20-over format in November 2017, he has played only 16 T20Is. He played his part in the US leg of the victorious T20 World Cup campaign in 2024. Who's to say that he won't again, at home again next year, too?

THE HINDU GROUP

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2024

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'Increase in water tariff will burden industrial sector'

BWSSB has hiked the rate by 0.90 paisa a litre for bulk consumption

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The hike in water tariff in Bengaluru will pinch the industry sector consuming Cauvery water in bulk volumes, say industry insiders.

Industrialists said that although the hike may look minimal per litre, it translates to making a huge difference for the large volumes of water industries consume.

Industrialists say that although the hike may look minimal per litre, it translates to making a huge difference for the large volumes of water the industries consume. FILE PHOTO

Hiked by ₹10

For the industry and bulk consumption, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has increased the rate by 0.90 paisa per litre. The industry insiders said that earlier the industries were paying ₹90 per one kilolitre and now it will increase by ₹10.

M.G. Balakrishna, President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI), talking to *The Hindu*, said the increase will burn the pockets as industry consumption is large.

The average minimum consumption of small-scale industries in the city is 50,000 litres, and the medium industries are 1 lakh litres per day. This means earlier ₹9,000 was charged for consuming one lakh litres, and now industries have to pay ₹10,000. For a month, this will translate to ₹30,000 more in water bills, which is not a small hike, he said.

Mr. Balakrishna further said the average per day consumption of large-scale industries is more than two lakh litres. "When the hike is seen at a per-litre scale, it may look small, it is not even a paisa, but in reality it is huge," he said.

While the water tariff for domestic connections varies from 0.15 paise to 1 paisa, what inflates the bill by a big margin is the hike in sanitary charges from 25% of water charges to 50% of water charges. Adding to this will be the meter charges of ₹30. Thus, if a house's consumption is 8,000 kilolitres, the water bill will go from ₹100 to ₹132.

For a consumption of 50,000 kilolitres, the highest slab for domestic connections, the bill is likely to jump from ₹1,191 to ₹1,809.

KRRS to facilitate farmer-to-consumer direct sale

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

In an unique move to help farmers in an unequal agricultural market, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS - Collective Leadership) has taken up an initiative to facilitate sale of farm produce directly to consumers in Bengaluru on an experimental basis. The first such experiment will commence with a three-day *santhe* (shandy) at Munivenkatayya Memorial Open Air Theatre in Rajarajeshwarinagar in Bengaluru where farmers will sell their produce directly to consumers without the intervention of any middlemen or traders from April 12 to 14.

Farmers from anywhere in Karnataka can participate in the *santhe* if they register themselves with the KRRS in advance. The organisers are planning to give priority for the first 100 enrolments, as this the first effort. Apart from vegetables, the farmers are also getting foodgrains, jaggery and oil to sell at the *santhe*.

Farmers from anywhere in Karnataka can participate in the *santhe* if they register themselves with the KRRS in advance. FILE PHOTO

'Call KRRS for a santhe'

"We want to spread this initiative to all areas of Bengaluru which is a major market. We want to do it with cooperation from consumers and residents' welfare associations. If interested consumers and residents' groups contact us, we will arrange for holding such *santhes* on a regular basis in various parts of Bengaluru," says KRRS leader Chukki Nanjundaswamy, whose idea is to further develop this farmer-consumer forum.

"The main intention is to bail out farmers from price-crash situations by ensuring remunerative prices while consumers get the benefit of quality produce at affordable prices," Ms. Chukki told *The Hindu*.

This initiative is being taken up as a 'farmers' struggle', christened *nera maaraatada mulaka namma horata* (our struggle through direct marketing).

"The farm market is distorted as it neither assures justifiable prices to farmers, nor does it benefit consumers," she said. "This has pushed farmers into a crisis.

About 30 farmers are committing suicide a day in India. In fact, about 85 lakh people have shun agriculture in the country between 2001 and 2011, as per the census report while the latest data is not yet available," she added. She expressed concern that nothing much had changed though efforts were going on for several years to ensure remunerative prices for farm produce through legal sanctity for Minimum Support Prices.

"In such a situation, we have been left with no option, but to explore the possibility of creating a direct farmer-to-consumer markets by ourselves. In fact, its an effort to awaken the conscience of consumers and appeal to them to make it a habit to buy directly from farmers so that they can contribute to fighting agrarian crisis, and save farmers," Ms. Chukki said, while pointing out that the city had a sizeable population that had migrated from rural areas and knows the problems of farmers. "Consumers who can afford can also help farmers in a bigger way by buying the agri produce for needy people. We will distribute such produce among needy people in slum areas," she said.

Prominent personalities, including films actors, writers and intellectuals, were being requested to promote this initiative in the interest of farmers through videos.

Farmer consumes poison during land acquisition protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 55-year-old farmer, facing the loss of three acres of land to an industrial project at Channarayapatna in Devanahalli, allegedly consumed poison on Thursday during a protest against land acquisition. The farmer, identified as Venkatesh, was undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru.

The protest, led by a group of farmers whose lands have been notified for acquisition under the third phase of an industrial project by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), has been ongoing for over 1,000 days. The KIADB has notified 1,777 acres for acquisition. Since the notification was issued, farmers have been staging an indefinite sit-in, opposing the project. During the last Assembly elections, the protestors threatened to boycott the polls, prompting the government to promise to cancel the project, but it remained unfulfilled.

On Thursday morning, when the farmers left the protest site intending to meet the district in-charge Minister K.H. Muniyappa at his residence in Sanjay Nagar, police intercepted and stopped two buses transporting over 100 farmers.

Farmer leader Anjaneya Reddy, speaking to *The Hindu*, said that upon being stopped, the farmers disembarked and began a dharna near the police station. It was during this protest that Mr. Venkatesh, a long-time participant in the agitation, allegedly consumed poison. He was rushed to the hospital. "Mr. Venkatesh is now out of danger but will remain under observation for the next two days," he added-.No case has been registered in connection with the incident so far.

Three of family killed in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three members of a family lost their lives in a road accident near Nelamangala on Thursday morning while they were on their way to attend a naming ceremony in Hiriyur.

The deceased have been identified as Gopala, 60, his wife Shashikala, 54, and their daughter Deepa, 25.

Gopala's grandchildren, aged one-and-a-half years and five years, who were also in the car, escaped with no injuries.

According to the police, the accident took place around 10.30 a.m. in the Nelamangala traffic police limits. The car in which the victims travelled rammed into a road divider on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru Highway, the officials said.

Police said the family was en route to attend a relative's naming ceremony when the accident occurred.

The police said that the impact of the collision was severe, and all three adults died on the spot. Their bodies have been sent to the hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been registered and further investigations are under way to ascertain the cause of the crash, they added.

Sabha to host first open house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sabha, a new arts and community centre in the city, will mark its public debut by hosting its first open house this weekend.

The event will be held on April 12 and 13, from 10 a.m.

This 7,500-square-foot, 160-year-old property will offer an eclectic, diverse mix of events, performances, talks and heritage walks, free of charge to the public, with a special focus on children.

Some of the highlights include a flea market run by Merchants of Happiness, where kids create products and run their stalls; a magic performance by a child magician and an immersive interpretation of the work of William Blake, performed by Susheela Raman, Sam Mills and Jeet Thayil.

For more details, check out Sabha's Instagram page @sabhablr

RELATED REPORT ON
» E-PAPER PAGE 7

THE HINDU GROUP

SPORTSTAR
INDIAN
POSTER
LEAGUE

DAY 21

Play now & start winning!

1. In tennis, what term is used for a serve that lands in the service box and wins the point without the opponent touching the ball?
2. In 2005, which country made history by becoming the first unseeded team to win the Davis Cup, beating Slovakia in the final and claiming the No. 1 spot in the ITF rankings for the first time?
3. Ranked world No. 125 and entering as a wildcard, which tennis player made history as the only one to win a Wimbledon singles title?

*T&C apply

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/46/2025 Dated: 09.01.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Tumakuru Station	Rs. 74,97,63,438/-

Redevelopment: Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for Tumakuru Station Redevelopment including Civil Works, Signal and Telecommunication works and Electrical General Services at Tumakuru Station. **(Tender Ref. No: TK-STN-DEVELOP-EPC)**

Date of Closing of Tender	
Existing	Revised
10.04.2025 (15:00 Hrs)	**25.04.2025 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer / Construction / Works / Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/25/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Canara Bank
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ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001
Ph No. 25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail - cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II, Bangalore will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities	Details and full description of the property	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price & Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	Incremental Value at Bid
1) The Managing Director M/s Technospark Industries India Pvt Ltd 1341, Kavalbyrasandra, R T Nagar Post, (Near DR.Ambedkar Medical College), Bengaluru – 560032 Karnataka **Also at,** Plot No. 178-A2 & 179-A, KIADB Industrial Area, Vasanthanarasapura 1st Phase, Nagenahalli Post, Kora Hobli, Tumkur – 572 128 **2) Mr Mohan Suresh (Managing Director and Guarantor)** Flat No 604, Block No.E-2, Unit No.WH-87, VI Floor, Sri Ram White House VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560 032 **Also at** A 1501, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Colony JP Nagar 4th Phase Bengaluru 560 078 Karnataka **3) Mrs. Surekha Suresh (Director and Guarantor)** Flat No 604, Block No.E-2, Unit No.WH-87, VI Floor, Sri Ram White House VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560 032 **Also at** A 1501, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Colony JP Nagar 4th Phase Bengaluru 560 078 Karnataka **5) Mr M Sanjeev (Guarantor)** No 359, 17th A Cross, 26th Main Road, J P Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078	**Rs. 49,92,07,456.48/- (Rupees Forty nine Crore ninty two lakhs seven thousand four hundred fifty six and forty eight paise only)** as on 31.03.2025 and plus interest thereon and other expenses with direct and indirect liabilities due to Canara Bank from **M/s Technospark Industries India Pvt Ltd** represented by Directors/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors **Mr. Mohan Suresh, Mrs. Surekha Suresh and Mr. M Sanjeev.**	**Property No.1 :** All that piece and parcel of property in the name of **Mr. M Sanjeev** being a portion of land in Survey No 45/3A of erstwhile Kaval Byrasandra Village measuring 18 1/2 guntas covered for residential purpose vide orders of Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District dated 17.08.1987 vide B.DIS.ALN:SR (N) 63/86, 87 later 10 guntas of land modified for industrial purpose vide orders dated 11.08.1988 under reference no B.DIS.ALN.SR 1/1988-89 now within the limit of BBMP and bearing Muncipal No 23 (Old No 45/3), PID no 95-50-23, New PID No 032-W0301-12 situated at 1st Main Road, Muniswamappa Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, **RT Nagar** Bengaluru and entire plot measuring 18 1/2 guntas or 20,146.5 square feet and **bounded on the East by** Land belonging to Chikkaputtanna **West By** Road leading to Doddanna's Land **North By** Land belonging to Appiahanna's Sons **South by** Land belonging to Munishamappa @ Bhoomanna and Road **Property No.2 :** All that piece and parcel of land and building existing and / or to be constructed there on in Sri Ram White House Apartment Complex House No WH-37, in Block AIII on the fifth floor, Apartment No 501, Survey No 37 located at VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bangalore-32, together with easementary and appurtments thereto in the name of Mrs. Surekha Suresh and Mr. Mohan Suresh, and **bounded as follows:- East by-** Storm Water drain **West by** BDA Road **North by** Remaining portion of Property bearing Sy No 37, pertaining to White House Project **South by** Private Property **Property No.3 : Item No.1** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 1** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the ground floor of the multistoried building known as '**FAMILY YMCA**" constructed in the property bearing No 57/4, PID No 92-30-57/4 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road **South-** Miller Road and Premises No 56, Miller Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church) **Item No.2** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 2** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the first floor of the multistoried building known as "FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/5, PID No 92-30-57/5 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church) **Item No.3** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 3** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the second floor of the multistoried building known as 'FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/6, PID No 92-30-57/6 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church) **Property No.4 :** All that piece and parcel ofproperty **Flat Number 4**, in the name of **M/s Technospark Industries India Private Ltd**, in the 3rd floor, admeasuring Super Built up area of 1430 square feet and 100 square feet land in the back yard to erect lift in the multistoried building known as "Family YMCA" constructed in the property bearing Muncipal No 57, PID No 92-30-57, situated at Millers Road, within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division number 47) Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road & site nos 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5 and 1/6, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road, Premises No 38/B, 38/K, 38/J, 38/G, 38/H and Millers Road, the last four premises situated on the New Road Running near premises number 38/B, Benson Cross and Cottage Belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander. **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road & Cottage belonging to Mr.Abdul Wajid and another. **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road **Property No.5 :** Property No.152500900601920013, Plot No. 178-A2 & 179-A, Sy. No.50, Khata No. 37/37/178/A2/179/A, Vasanthanarasapura Induatrial Area, Nagenahalli village, Kora Hobli, Tumkur	29.04.2025 – 11:00 AM to 12.00 PM	**Property No.1 : Reserve Price:** Rs.11,20,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.1,12,00,000/- **Property No.2 : Reserve Price:** Rs.1,53,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.15,30,000/- **Property No.3 : Reserve Price:** Rs.3,97,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.39,70,000/- **Property No.4 : Reserve Price:** Rs.1,29,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.12,90,000/- **Property No.5 : Reserve Price:** Rs.7,17,00,000.00/- **EMD:** Rs. 71,70,000.00/- **on or before 28.04.2025 Till 5.00 pm.**	1) Multiplies of Rs.2,00,000/- **Encumbrance(s):** Not Known to the Bank

Other terms and conditions

a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://baanknet.com/ Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer .
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (E-bkray/Baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.
e. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 28.04.2025-5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email.
i. Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
iii. Bid Form.
The intending bidders should register their names at portal https://baanknet.com/and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, M/s.PSB Alliance (E bkray/Baanknet) - e- mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com
EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
f. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs.2,00,000/-.The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
g. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006298.
h. For sale proceeds of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
i. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
j. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
k. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
l. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
For further details contact Chief Manager, Canara Bank , ARM Branch-2- (080-25310181) e-mail id – cb6298@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance(E bkray/baanknet) - e- mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.

Place: Bangalore | Date: 08.04.2025

Sd/-, Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Early screening for gestational diabetes can ensure a healthy future for mother and child

World Health Day 2025, observed on April 7, carried the theme 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures' with focus on maternal and newborn health; the campaign urges mothers and doctors to prioritise early pregnancy screening to prevent chronic conditions; effective implementation of national guidelines remains critical to this goal

V. Seshiah
A. Panneerselvam
Anjalakshi Chandrasekar
A. Bhavadharani

WORLD HEALTH DAY

This World Health Day (April 7), the World Health Organization (WHO), chose an apt theme: 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures.' Diabetologists have, for decades, been propounding the theory of primordial prevention, or preventing diabetes in the womb itself, in order to ensure a happy and healthy future for both the mother and the baby.

The WHO's choice of theme for this World Health Day is a vindication of the work and advocacy campaigns undertaken towards this goal.

Diabetes has long been a silent epidemic, affecting millions worldwide, but its roots often lie much earlier than commonly recognised. Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) increases the risk of type 2 diabetes in mothers and metabolic disorders in children. GDM is usually diagnosed between 24 and 28 weeks of pregnancy. However there is now evidence that points to the possibility of preventing its onset during the first trimester or even earlier. Its impact on both the mother and the child are profound and lasting.

Research underlines that maternal glucose levels should be carefully regulated as early as the eighth week of pregnancy.

An early intervention would help prevent foetal hyperinsulinemia, a metabolic disturbance that occurs in the 11th week, and reduce the risk of the child developing diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) later in life.

Given India's recent burgeoning diabetes burden, this matter needs immediate attention from the medical community and policymakers.

Gestational diabetes mellitus poses a significant risk, increasing the likelihood of type 2 diabetes in mothers and metabolic disorders in children. GETTY IMAGES

The case for glucose screening

Existing GDM management is based on screening in the second trimester and commencing treatment. Nevertheless, it may be too late. Maternal hyperglycemia in the first trimester appears to programme the child's foetal metabolism, increasing the risk that the child will be obese and insulin-resistant or develop diabetes later in life.

Leading endocrinologists concur that glucose intolerance should be screened much earlier – at about the eighth week of pregnancy.

Reasonable justification exists because, by the 24-week time point in GDM, the foetus has been exposed to excessive glucose for months. This results in excessive foetal insulin production, which can lead to lifelong metabolic disorders.

Foetal origin of adult diseases

The 'Foetal Origin of Adult Diseases' (Barker's Hypothesis) suggests that conditions during gestation will affect the child's health over the long term. Early in development, if a foetus is exposed to high blood glucose levels, the programming will be to store more fat, resist insulin, and form metabolic disorders later in life. As a result, researchers have called for a rethink of prenatal care, with glucose control as a primary concern right from the start of pregnancy.

The aim is not only to deal with diabetes in pregnancy but to prevent it before it starts, as stated earlier, through a policy called primordial prevention. The goal of primordial prevention is to prevent diabetes from ever developing in the first place and decrease risk factors before they occur.

The eight-week strategy

To mitigate these risks, a new model of early GDM intervention has been proposed, focusing on a key eight-point agenda. These include: Firstly, glucose testing by eight weeks of pregnancy. That way, anything potentially wrong could be picked up before it starts harming the development of the unborn.

Secondly, doing so will prevent foetal hyperinsulinemia, and thereby, no long-term hypoglycemia (low sugar levels) is observed. If the 10-week glucose control of postprandial blood sugar remains below 110 mg/dL, metabolic risks will be limited. In case the post prandial blood sugar levels are over 110 mg/dL, medical nutrition therapy and low-dose metformin (250 mg twice daily) can halt the rise of glucose to prevent the development of GDM later in pregnancy. There is clinical evidence that this strategy has been effective in preventing GDM in the third trimester with less probability. It further prevents the necessity of insulin therapy since it is at this stage that GDM is mostly diagnosed.

The aim is not only to deal with diabetes in pregnancy but to prevent it before it starts through primordial prevention which aims to prevent it from ever developing

The Indian context

Currently, India has more than seventy-seven million people with diabetes, and the numbers are increasing. It is pretty alarming that about 20% of pregnant women in India develop GDM, exposing both the mothers and their offspring to long-term health burdens related to metabolic disease.

One reason this is so is because the maternal care checklists and prenatal care guidelines remain anchored to traditional screening times.

There are several issues which are prevalent only in India that make early intervention all the more important.

Lack of early care: The majority of women of Indian origin do not go for antenatal checkups until the second trimester, thereby missing the screening period.

Indian women are more vulnerable to insulin resistance and diabetes profile than any other racial group. Therefore, early diagnosis and intervention are critical. Not only patients but healthcare providers too lack sufficient knowledge of first-trimester hyperglycemia and its possible consequences. Therefore, the development of early GDM screening and intervention policy across the country is now absolutely critical.

Rethinking clinical guidelines

Diabetologists have lately urged early detection of blood glucose levels. While concluding the 18th Annual Conference of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India (DIPSI 2024), the delegates and experts stressed the following points: Risk modification through pre-conception period concerns, dietary control, exercise, and preventive medication before conception; Long-term monitoring of blood glucose levels in high-risk pregnant mothers to trace glucose levels throughout pregnancy.

Some measures are recommended in the national guidelines to implement them and standardise the care in India. The facts are evident and vivid – timely interventions can eradicate complications that last a lifetime.

To ensure that this new approach works, there is a need for a new conceptualisation of maternal care involving all the stakeholders, including the care providers, policymakers, and the general public.

Key steps include: Developing educational programmes to encourage healthcare providers in primary and remote areas to use early glucose screening; changing the guidelines for pregnancy care across all the States and territories to provide glucose screening by the eighth week.

Making all tests and treatment accessible and affordable for the mother and the foetus is another key recommendation.

New standard of maternal health

Diabetes prevention starts in the womb. Consequently, the first eight weeks of pregnancy pose a critical period.

Since diabetes is a major emerging epidemic in India, adapting this standard of maternal care is no longer a choice; it is a must. If allowed to fight diabetes, we should do it right from the roots, or in this case, from the womb.

(Dr. V. Seshiah, is a diabetologist practicing in Chennai and is the founder and patron of the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India and can be reached at vseshiah@gmail.com

Dr. A Panneerselvam, senior consultant diabetologist, can be reached at drapselvam58@yahoo.com

Dr. Anjalakshi Chandrasekar is senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, can be reached at dranjalakshi@gmail.com and

Dr. A. Bhavadharani is senior consultant diabetologist, can be reached at srcdiab@yahoo.com)

THE GIST

Gestational diabetes mellitus is usually diagnosed between 24 and 28 weeks of pregnancy. However there is evidence now that points to the ability to prevent its onset during the first trimester or even earlier. Its impact on both the mother and the child are profound and lasting

Research underlines that maternal glucose levels should be carefully regulated as early as the eighth week of pregnancy. Early intervention would help reduce the risk of the child developing diabetes and other non-communicable diseases later in life

About 20% of pregnant women in India develop GDM, exposing both the mothers and their offspring to long-term health burdens. One reason for this is because maternal care checklists and prenatal care guidelines remain anchored to traditional screening times

Indoor air pollution: can better design help protect our health?

Zubeda Hamid

Most of us tend to think of air pollution in terms of what is outside the house or building we are currently in: exhaust from motor vehicles on the streets, smoke, and industrial fumes perhaps, but is the air we are breathing inside any better? Does it pose a risk to our health? Can superior construction and design of urban infrastructure help mitigate indoor air pollution hazards?

In India, while conversations around outdoor air pollution have gained ground, the same focus has not yet been given to indoor air quality in buildings, despite the fact that most people in urban areas spend 70 to 90% of their time indoors, says Kalpana Balakrishnan Dean (Research), Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai.

Understanding indoor pollution

While most of the indoor or household air pollution in India still comes from the use of solid fuels for cooking, primarily in rural areas, in urban areas, where the switch to cleaner fuels such as gas has mostly been made, there are several other sources of indoor air pollution.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), as per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), refers to the air quality within and around buildings and structures, especially as it relates to the health and comfort of building occupants. Understanding and controlling common pollutants indoors can help reduce your risk of indoor health concerns, it says.

"Indoor air pollution is a very broad term as it comprises both indoor sources of pollution as well as pollution from outdoors that has infiltrated indoors. In India, it is very difficult to distinguish between the sources, because unlike other countries, where homes and buildings might be more insulated from the outdoors, this is not the case with most places in our country, making air pollution heterogeneous**.** Our biggest concern here is the penetration of outdoor air indoors," says Dr. Balakrishnan.

Outdoor (ambient) air pollution is grouped as a class 1 carcinogen, meaning it is cancer-causing, apart from contributing to a whole host of other diseases, including respiratory ailments, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

Dr. Balakrishnan explained that indoor air pollution is also caused by activities inside a building and by the structure (and materials used) itself. "For instance, smoking, cooking, use of chemical cleaners, and mosquito coils or incense sticks could all impact the quality of air indoors," she said. And then, the building itself – the furnishings, vapour from paint or plastering on walls, as well as biological contaminants such as mould – can also contribute to indoor air pollution and impact the health of people using the building, she explained.

Impact of indoor air pollution

The EPA states that health effects from indoor air pollution can be experienced soon after exposure or possibly years later. Some of the immediate effects it lists are irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat; headaches; dizziness; and fatigue. Such immediate effects are usually short-term and treatable.

However, it notes that some effects may be similar to those from colds or other viral diseases, making it important to pay attention to the time and place symptoms occur. Health issues that may show up years after exposure, or only after long or repeated periods of exposure may include respiratory diseases, heart disease, and cancer, it says.

A build-up of carbon dioxide within an indoor space due to a large number of people using the same space, combined with poor ventilation, is also known to cause symptoms of sickness.

Generally, it is challenging to precisely point out to what extent poor IAQ can affect health, as information regarding the association between the two is inadequate, states a 2021 paper, 'An Investigative Study on Perceived Indoor Air Quality During COVID-19 Lockdown in India' by T.K. Bedi et al. However, it adds, this should be considered a public health issue.

The most common dangerous domestic pollutants which cause poor indoor air quality. GETTY IMAGES

Better building design

Prioritising indoor air quality in design is crucial, says Mahesh Ramanujam, president & CEO Global Network for Zero, an independent green certification body helping businesses, buildings, and cities achieve net-zero emissions. One major reason for indoor air pollution, he points out, is that there is lack of good ventilation – most buildings and houses tend to shut their doors and windows to keep the outside out, meaning there is poor airflow, resulting in the circulation of air over and over, giving pathogens a chance to to spread.

In settings where it is possible, he says, opening doors and windows and bringing in sunlight as well as the use of plants indoors can help. Sunlight is known to have beneficial effects on health and aid in recovery. But where this is not possible, say in healthcare facilities where sterile settings are important, designing and building to minimise indoor air pollution can go a long way.

When it comes to the building itself, he says, for several years now, there has been a focus on decreasing the use of volatile organic compounds like formaldehyde as a strategy to address health and well-being.

An intentional design process that incorporates, for instance, skylights, bringing daylight into pathways and hallways, and designing spaces that allow for the movement of people, can help. This can be combined with the use of air purifier units, and high quality HEPA filters to keep out particulate matter and using toxin-free cleaners and greenery where possible, to help with improved air and better health.

'Do it while planning'

Studies suggest that indoor concentrations of air pollutants are increasing, driven by factors such as the types of chemicals in home products, inadequate ventilation, hotter temperatures, and higher humidity, says the U.S.'s National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. This may be of particular concern in India, where a spike in heat, combined with humidity in coastal cities, is already beginning to show impacts on health.

Healthy design elements are easy to incorporate while building a new structure but can also be retrofitted in existing old buildings, though this may be more challenging, says Sumita Vasudevan, an associate at APROBuild, an architecture and interior design firm based in Chennai. "Earlier, anything that was green was more expensive, but costs have come down, making the difference only marginal; green elements are now part of the design in most buildings. Post-COVID-19, there has been a focus on filtered air, and this is incorporated now into buildings, especially places such as hospitals, through design," she points out.

Buildings that are going to have most rooms air-conditioned must focus on easy-to-maintain surfaces, separation of zones and ease of movement so that there are not too many people using the same room together, natural lighting where possible, proper waste disposal, and, in settings where necessary, good air filters, said Ms. Vasudevan.

Where a sterile setting is not required and air pollution outdoors is not much of a concern, a back to basics approach may be beneficial: open your windows for ventilation and surround yourself with greenery.

zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

Felicitation programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Silk Association of India (SAI) is holding a felicitation programme in honour of V. Balasubramanian, former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, on Sunday. He has served two terms as Director of the Department of Sericulture, Government of Karnataka, and one term as Member Secretary of the Central Silk Board, Government of India.

The event will be held at Hotel Chancery Pavilion on Residency Road at 11 a.m.

ABBS to conduct open house tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Acharya Bangalore B-School (ABBS) will conduct its open house event on April 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on its campus. The event is open to prospective students and the general public, offering a day of informative and interactive sessions.

The programme includes career guidance talks, and creative challenges. For details, visit the official website at www.abs.edu.in.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 11		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:32
RISE	17:21	SET 04:58
SATURDAY, APR. 12		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:32
RISE	18:06	SET 05:32
SUNDAY, APR. 13		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:32
RISE	18:52	SET 06:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	24
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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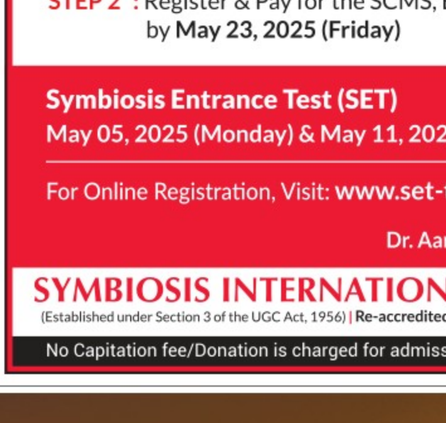

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ADMISSION PROCESS
STEP 1 : Register & Pay for SET by **April 12, 2025 (Saturday)**
STEP 2 : Register & Pay for the SCMS, Bengaluru Programme by **May 23, 2025 (Friday)**

Symbiosis Entrance Test (SET)
May 05, 2025 (Monday) & May 11, 2025 (Sunday)

For Online Registration, Visit: **www.set-test.org** | **www.scmsbengaluru.edu.in**

Dr. Aarti Mehta Sharma, Director, SCMS-Bengaluru

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KAMMANAHALLI: 080 25039900 | 080 42804000 • FORUM SOUTH BENGALURU,
PRESTIGE FALCON CITY: 080 69656111 • HSR LAYOUT: 8024411600

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

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GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Democracies in decline

Across the world, liberal democracies are in decline, while closed autocracies are on the rise. This trend, which began in the 2010s, has worsened in the 2020s

Kushal Varma J V
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The number of closed autocracies have increased in the 2020s—reversing the steady decline seen since the 1980s, according to the V-Dem Institute. The most significant rise in closed autocracies has occurred in West Asia and North Africa, as well as in South Asia. In Europe and Central Asia, liberal democracies are rapidly shrinking, while electoral democracies are gaining ground.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, both trends—democratic erosion and autocratic consolidation—are evident.

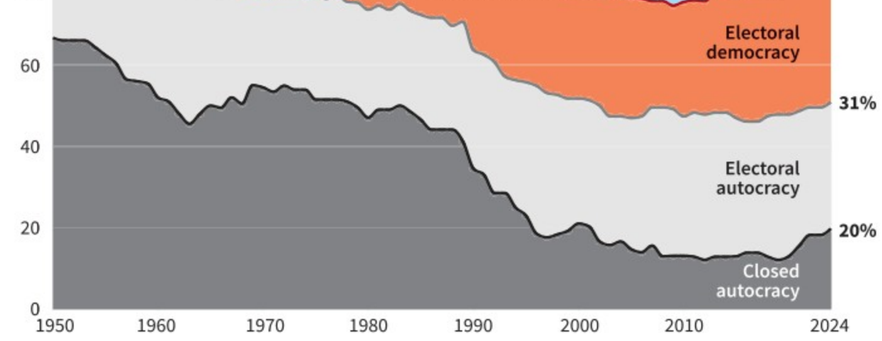
While the Latin American & Caribbean and East Asia & Pacific regions have not reflected the recent erosion of democratic values to the same extent, their existing state is far from ideal.

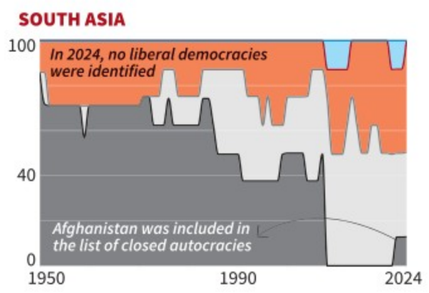
Closed autocracies are defined by the absence of multiparty elections and a lack of fundamental democratic principles such as freedom of speech and expression. Electoral autocracies, while allowing multiparty elections, fall short in upholding these core freedoms. Electoral democracies offer both elections and some civil liberties, but only to a moderate degree. Liberal democracies, by contrast, ensure a robust balance of power between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, along with strong protections for civil liberties. India has been classified as an electoral autocracy since 2017 and has remained the same since then.

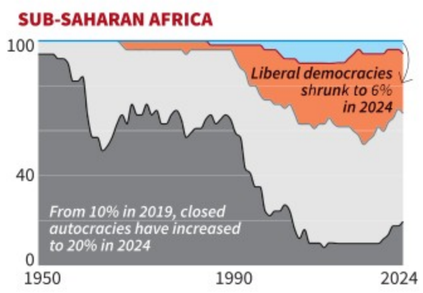
The following graphs and conclusions are based on the V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2025.

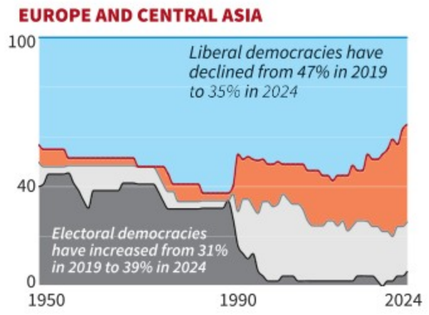
TRENDS ACROSS REGIONS

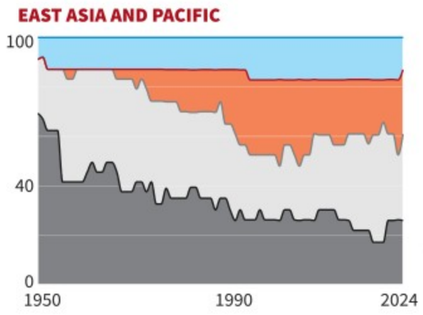
As of 2024, 20% of the 179 countries assessed are closed autocracies, up from 12% in 2019. In the same period, the share of liberal democracies has declined to 16% from 21%

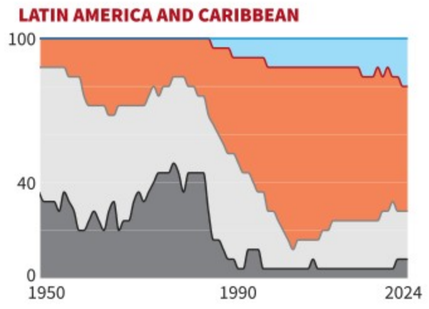


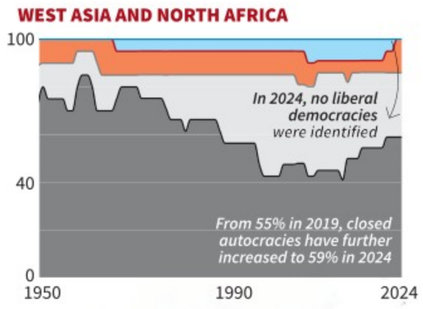












DEMOCRACY IN PERIL

According to the V-Dem's latest report, the aspect of democracy that has seen the most significant decline is freedom of expression. This includes key components such as government censorship of the media, restrictions on academic and cultural expression, and the harassment of journalists. A total of 44 countries, including India, have experienced a deterioration in this area.

- Equally concerning is the growing use of disinformation and political polarisation by governments worldwide. Disinformation tactics have been employed by governments in 31 countries, including El Salvador, Georgia, Hungary, India, and Serbia, the report added.
- More widespread, however, is the surge in political polarisation, which has intensified in 45 countries. The report highlights that "most autocratising countries have toxic levels of polarisation," citing Hungary, India, and Peru as key examples.
- Additionally, the report notes a sharp rise in government intimidation of opposition parties during election periods. This trend has worsened in 21 countries, including India.
- Another area of concern is the increasing threat to the autonomy of election management bodies. Attacks have become more common in 21 of the 45 autocratising countries, including Russia and Indonesia.

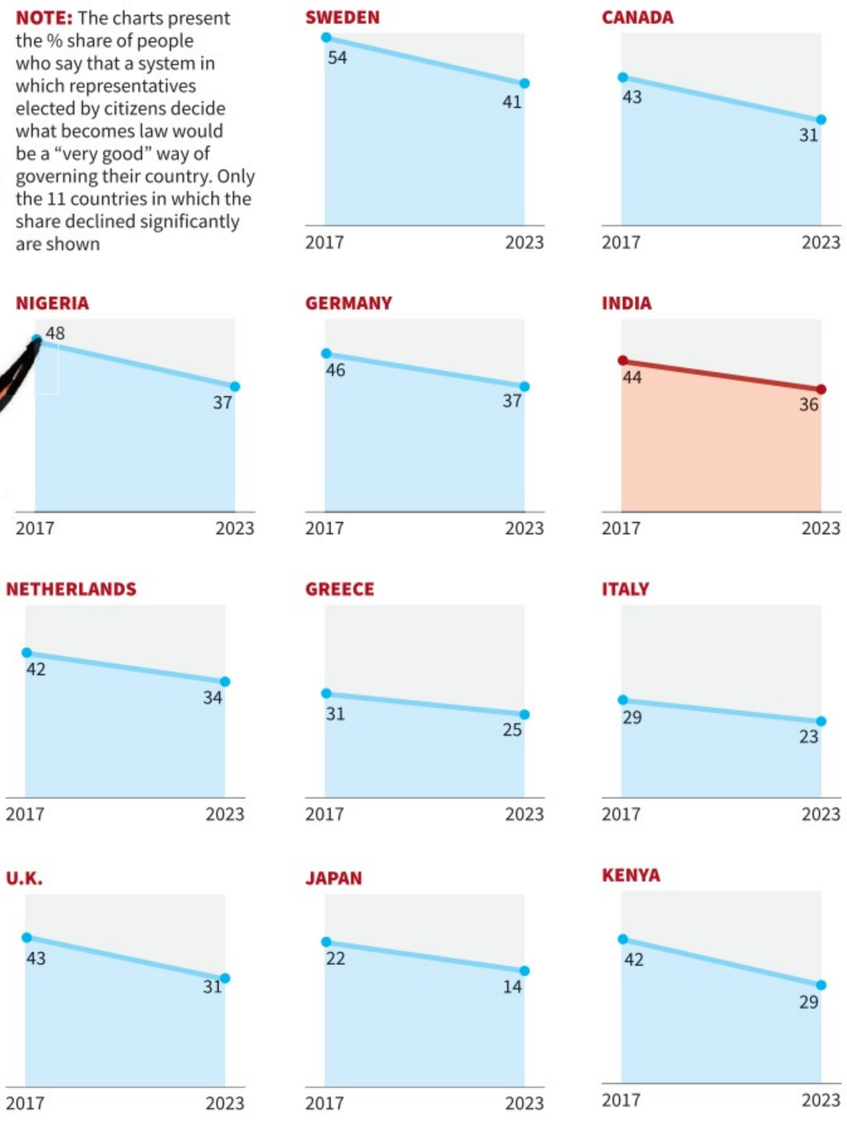
PUBLIC OPINION

Public opinion surveys also indicate a growing preference for strong leaders who can make decisions without interference from courts or Parliaments in some countries, including India. At the same time, support for representative democracy has declined in many countries, including India. The following findings are based on data from a Pew Research Center survey.

SUPPORT FOR REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

In 11 of the 22 countries where comparable data from 2017 is available, the share of people who describe representative democracy as a "very good" way to govern has declined significantly by 2023. For example, in India, 36% of respondents viewed representative democracy very positively in 2023, compared to just 44% in 2017.

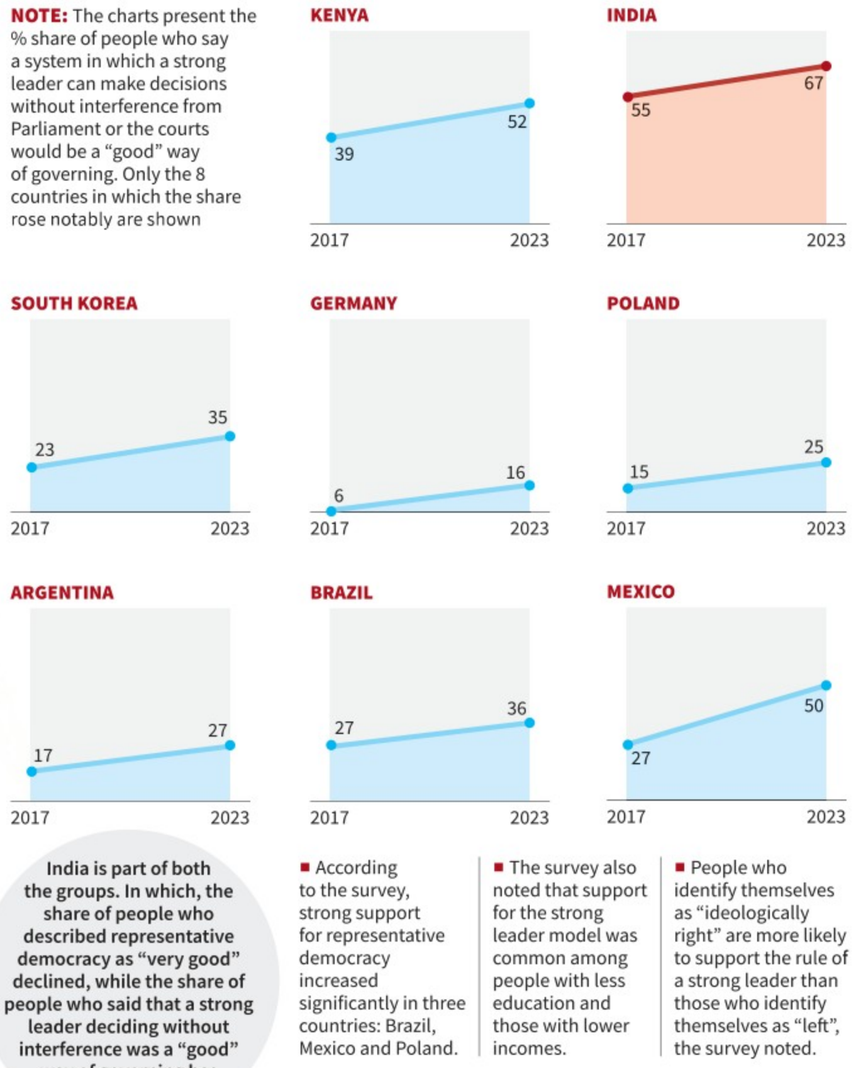
NOTE: The charts present the % share of people who say that a system in which representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law would be a "very good" way of governing their country. Only the 11 countries in which the share declined significantly are shown



SUPPORT FOR RULE BY AUTOCRATIC LEADER

Support for a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without checks from courts or Parliaments has risen in 8 of the 22 countries surveyed. This increase is particularly notable in all three Latin American countries included in the study, as well as in Kenya, India, South Korea, Germany, and Poland. For example, in India, 55% of respondents had said a strong leader is good in 2017, this increased to 67% by 2023

NOTE: The charts present the % share of people who say a system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from Parliament or the courts would be a "good" way of governing. Only the 8 countries in which the share rose notably are shown

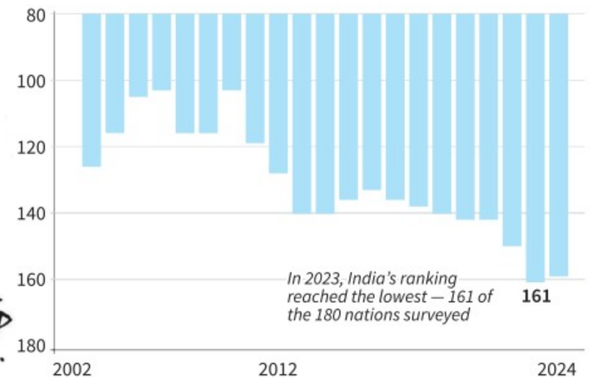


India is part of both the groups. In which, the share of people who described representative democracy as "very good" declined, while the share of people who said that a strong leader deciding without interference was a "good" way of governing has increased.

- According to the survey, strong support for representative democracy increased significantly in three countries: Brazil, Mexico and Poland.
- The survey also noted that support for the strong leader model was common among people with less education and those with lower incomes.
- People who identify themselves as "ideologically right" are more likely to support the rule of a strong leader than those who identify themselves as "left", the survey noted.

PRESS FREEDOM IN INDIA

As of 2024, India ranked 159 out of the 180 countries surveyed by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF). The last time India ranked within the top 100 countries was in 2002. The decline in rankings became steeper since 2022, with India's ranking plummeting below 150



DESIGN: SANKAR GANESH T

Ambergris worth ₹10 cr. seized

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Kodagu police have seized ambergris, also called whale vomit, estimated to be valued at around ₹10 crore, on Thursday.

The police confiscated 10.39 kg of ambergris near Betoli village in Virajpet police station limits. Ten people were arrested for allegedly being involved in the illegal trade.

The police said the ambergris was being illegally transported from Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. Acting on a tip-off, a police team was constituted. The team intercepted the vehicles carrying the ambergris and seized it.

Police shoot at accused when he attempts to escape

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Shikaripur police shot at an accused and arrested him as he tried to escape after allegedly attacking a policeman at Kengudde Road in Shikaripur town on Thursday. Srinivas alias Seena, 25, was an accused in a robbery case that was reported in the Malur police station limits. He also had several other criminal cases against him.

AAI team expected to submit report in a month

Team inspected the locations – two on Kanakapura Road and one on Nelamangala-Kunigal Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) team, which concluded the inspection of three locations that have been identified for Bengaluru's second international greenfield airport, is expected to submit a feasibility report within a month, according to Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Thursday.

Mr. Patil said that the AAI team inspected the locations, of which two were on Kanakapura Road and one on the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road.

After receiving feedback from the AAI team, he said a feasibility report would be prepared followed by a detailed study which would be undertaken by expert consultants specialising in airport infrastructure development.

"Based on this, the government will finalise the location for the airport," said Mr. Patil. He added that various factors would come into consideration and the consultants would study parameters such as the location of the airport, passenger load, cargo load, accessibility, among others, before giving the final nod.

The second airport for Bengaluru could only become operational after May 2033, owing to an agreement between the Bangalore International Airport Ltd., which is the operator of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

As per the agreement, no airport can operate within an aerial distance of 150 km of KIA before its 25th anniversary which falls in May 2033.

"If we start preparing now, the second airport could take shape by 2030 and operations could start by 2033. Otherwise, even by 2040, a new airport may not materialise," he said.

While the State government has identified three sites around Bengaluru for the second airport, around 42 legislators, led by veteran Congress leader T.B. Jayachandra, have suggested Sira in Tumakuru district as a location for it.

Mr. Jayachandra, who is MLA for Sira, which is about 120 km from Bengaluru along with the other legislators have written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging him to set up the airport there. In the letter, they have cited Sira's proximity to HAL's new helicopter factory in Tumakuru and DRDO's testing range at Challakere.

AAI team inspecting one of the two sites on Kanakapura Road on April 8. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SECOND AIRPORT FOR CITY

'Not viable'

Reacting to this Mr. Patil said that setting up a greenfield international airport in Sira is not viable and a district-level airport could be built there.

"A district-level airport could be built there, but it will not be an international airport. Just allocating land won't make everything happen," Mr. Patil said.

'Ideal location is between Bengaluru and Mysuru'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aviation expert Devesh Agarwal has said that the ideal location for the second airport should be between Bengaluru and Mysuru.

"The airport must be put in a location which contributes to the stated policies of the State government, especially the industrial and food processing sector. Keeping that in mind we need the best location between Bengaluru and Mysuru," Mr. Agarwal said.

He added that having the airport south of Bengaluru would cater to the population living in that part of the city which now had to travel to Devanahalli which was located in the northern part of Bengaluru.

"If the Karnataka government opens another international airport north of Bengaluru or north-west of Bengaluru, the Tamil Nadu government will definitely find a justification to open up an airport in and around Hosur given that the 150 km rule will expire by 2033," he added.

Land dispute case: FIR filed based on forged signature of complainant, says CID

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probing alleged irregularities in connection with the investigation into a land dispute case has allegedly found that the Sarjapur police registered an First Information Report (FIR) based on a forged signature of a complainant known to them. This was revealed in a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) during the investigation by the CID.

As there were allegations of abuse of power and forgery against the Sarjapur police, a CID investigation was ordered. In March 2022, while hearing a writ petition filed by the accused in the case, the High Court had directed the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) to order a CID probe.

"Probe found that the signature was forged and later the case was registered by the police," a CID official told *The Hindu*. On June 1, 2021, Sarjapur police registered an FIR against C. Venkatesh, Narayana, and three others. The police booked them under relevant IPC sections pertaining to murder attempt, unlawful assembly, criminal intimidation, outraging the modesty of women, and others.

In the FIR, it was stated that the accused stopped C.M. Rudrappa and others at a land bearing survey number 129 over a dispute.

In the complaint signed by Mr. Rudrappa, it was claimed that associates of the accused Venkatesh sold the land using fake documents. The police had arrested the accused and they were released on bail after a few days. As soon as the accused came out on bail, Mr. Venkatesh moved the HC seeking direction to instruct the DG&IGP to order a CID probe against the police officers. In the writ petition filed in 2021, Venkatesh said, "Police forged the signature of complainant C.M. Rudrappa and registered a false case."

The FSL report that was conducted as part of the CID probe accessed by *The Hindu* shows that the signature of Mr. Rudrappa was forged. The forensic analysis was conducted by the State Forensic Science Laboratory, Madiwala. In the report, it is opined that: "The person who wrote the standard signature marked as Q2 (complaint copy) is produced through traced forgery; hence, the authorship of the questioned signature marked as Q2 could not be fixed up."

"The police officers in the station framed me and others. Harish forged the signature of Rudrappa to register the false case," Narayana, one of the accused in the FIR in question, told *The Hindu*. Mr. Harish, who is posted in J.P. Nagar police station as an inspector, denied this and said, "FIR was registered based on the complaint, and the chargesheet was also filed. And I received a complaint from the hands of the complainant."

Rotary Club to host film festival on April 12, 13

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Rotary Club of Bangalore will organise the second edition of its International Film Festival for a cause on April 12 and 13 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium, Race Course Road.

The festival aims to empower economically challenged and marginalised women by training them for careers behind the camera. It also seeks to raise awareness about filmmaking and allied professions. Entry is free and open to all, encouraging public participation in support of this meaningful initiative.

Climate action plan: BBMP begins survey to identify wards for implementation

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has launched a comprehensive survey to identify wards across 28 Assembly constituencies for the implementation of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan. The civic body has allocated ₹28 crore for this initiative.

As part of the plan, the BBMP will select one ward from each constituency and tailor interventions based on the specific needs of those wards. The survey to identify suitable wards is already underway and is expected to be completed within two and a half months.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, BBMP Special Commissioner for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Preethi Gehlot, said, "We have now commenced the process of identifying the wards based on stipulated criteria. After the selection, programmes will be implemented according to the individual requirements of each ward."

Explaining the selection process, Gehlot said that ground-level staff conducting the survey will assess various parameters, including the presence of slums, the condition of drainage systems, solid waste management practices, and other civic indicators.

A senior BBMP official added that the plan will prioritize wards requiring better infrastructure, improvements in drainage systems, strengthening of solid waste management, and development of lakes and parks. Wards already equipped with adequate civic infrastructure will be excluded from the programme.

In the selected wards, the BBMP will implement targeted improvements under the Climate Action and Resilience Plan to enhance environmental sustainability and resilience at the local level.

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-222027 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 01/2025-26 Dated : 07-04-2025

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4**, form The Total no of works is 1, **H/A : 8443 DC Works** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in E-Procurement Only. Date of events as follows :

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 07-04-2025 to 29-04-2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	21-04-2025 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	29-04-2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	02-05-2025 after 16.00 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	05-05-2025 after 16.00 Hrs.

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

DIPR : CHANAGAR:12:2025-26

Capital Region Urban Transport
Plot No-548/1452, Patia, Kalarahanga,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha (INDIA), Pin -751024.
E-Mail :- crutbbsr@gmail.com ; Phone No. 0674-3501580

Notice No. 810 / CRUT **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** Date: 10/04/2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF FIELD OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FOMA) FOR CAPITAL REGION URBAN TRANSPORT.

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) invites Proposal from interested agencies for the above-mentioned purpose. Please refer the RFP document for details.

- The RFP document shall be available from **11/04/2025** onwards in following web portal: www.capitalregiontransport.in. **Any further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Responses to the queries/ Clarifications) shall be uploaded in the above website only.**
- Applicants are required to submit duly filled Proposal as per the prescribed formats on or before **28/04/2025 by 4:00 PM.** The Proposals received shall be opened at **12:00 PM** on **29/04/2025.**
- In case of any queries/clarifications, email at **crutbbsr@gmail.com**
- CRUT reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

General Manager (P&A),
Capital Region Urban Transport

C-85 OIPR-13183/11/0035/2425

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ,
ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–576101
web: www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in Phone: 0820-2520446/2520306
E-Mail: itstalf_ulb_udupi@yahoo.com Fax: 0820-2524236
NO:UCMC/HS/STP-MP/CR-36/2024-25 Date: 09.04.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ–2ನೇ ಕರೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಸಿ–8 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 24/04/2025 ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	Tenders for the work of Providing Manpower Services like Plant In charge, Supervisor, Helpers, Pump Operator, watchman. Mechanic Cum electrician to sewage treatment plant and Sucking Machine drivers cum Operators and sucking machine Helpers, weighbridge operator cum Computer Operator to STP in the limits of Udupi city municipal council (Total 26 Members)	DMA/2024-25/SE4636/CALL-2	Rs. 67.76 Lakshs	135522.00/-

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ – 576101

Government of Karnataka
SHIVAMOGGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
An Autonomous Institute of Medical Sciences
Sagar Road, Shivamogga - 577 201
Ph: 08182 269700/ 269701 Fax: 08182 264700, https://sims.karnataka.gov.in
No:SIMS/Store/Tender/2025-26 Date: 07.04.2025

Tender Notification

The following Tenders have been invited from Shivamogga Institutue of Medical Sciences in two-cover system through e-procurement portal.(kpp.portal)

Sl NO	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Item	Date of Bid documents available	Opening of Technical Bid
1	ಶಿವೈವಿಸಂತಿ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ವಾವಿ/2025-26/1674106, Datetd 08.04.2025	ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರು, ಮುಖ್ಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರರು,ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಕಮ್ಯುನಿಟಿ ಮೆಡಿಸಿನ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ 04 ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಾಹನ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.	16.04.2025 to 02.05.2025	05.05.2025
2	No. SIMS/Store/TNDR / Lab Chemical &Re Agents/ 2025-26/ SIMS-SMG, Call-3 Dated: 08.04.2025	Purchase of Chemical & Re Agents to VRDL Lab and Mc Gann Teaching Hospital, SIMS.	08.04.2025 to 23.04.2025	25.04.2025
3	No. SIMS/OSSB/5/2025-EST1-SIMS-SMG, (DME/2024-25/SE0393/ CALL-3)Dated: 12.03.2025	Providing Group D Manpower Services to SIMS, SHIMOGA	07.04.2025 to 23.04.2025	25.04.2025

Bid documents shall be downloaded from the website : http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Director/Dean
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients intend to purchase the below Schedule Property from its absolute owner Sri H. M.Veerendra Kumar, Aged 71 yrs, S/o.Sri Bangaru Babu alias Mangapathy Naidu, residing at no.546, 31st main road, Banagirinagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore -560085. The said property was acquired by Sri H. M. Veerendra Kumar through a public auction conducted by Bank of India, K.G.Road, Bangalore, under SARFAESI Act-2002 covered under Sale Certificate dated 4/02/2006, registered as Doc No. KEN-1-23968-2005-06, stored in C.D.No. KEND256 at the Sub-Registrar's Office, Kengeri.
Sri H. M.Veerendra Kumar affirms that this is his self-acquired property & no one else holds any right, title, interest or claim over it.
Any person(s), Bank(s), financial institution(s),or authority(ies) having objections or claims are requested to submit them with the supporting documents to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication. Claims made after this period will not be considered & the transaction will proceed as uncontested.

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North Side (E-W) : 39 ft 9 inches,
South Side(E-W) : 39 ft,
North-South : 60 ft,
Total area : Approx. 2362 sq. ft.
Boundaries:
East by –Site No.12, West by–Site No.14, North by – Road, South–Private Property.

Place: Bangalore Date: 08/04/2025
sd/-
C.K. RAGHAVENDRA, Advocate
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Phule: a constant gardener of social revolution

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule continues to be a source of inspiration to many progressives even today; we look back at his actions and opinions from his life and writings, where he envisions a society liberated of orthodox shell

Prathmesh Kher

Jyotiba Phule was born on April 11, 1827, in the Mali caste, a community traditionally occupied with gardening and floristry. In 1848, Phule was invited to attend a wedding of one of his Brahmin friends. The relatives of the groom insulted and abused him while referring to his 'lower' caste. Phule left the procession, having made up his mind to defy the prevailing social system and its incumbent caste oppression. He visited a girls' school in Ahmednagar run by missionary Cynthia Farrar, and also came into contact with Thomas Paine's *Age of Reason*, which had criticised Christian orthodoxy much in the same way as Phule would come to contend with its Hindu counterpart.

The very same year, Phule and his wife Savitribai cofounded the first school for girls in India. Phule was only 21 years old at the time; the couple opened 18 more schools in the next three years. By 1855, Phule had also opened night schools in Pune, intended as a centre of learning for workers, farmers, and working women who were busy during the day. Phule's rapid success in this emancipatory revolution was opposed by the orthodoxy.

In his later years, Phule had vociferously opposed first Vishnu Shashtri Chiplunkar, and then his protege Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Phule preferred to work with the British government to improve the lot of the untouchables and the depressed castes and the emancipation of women, while Tilak and other orthodox nationalists saw the British government as an occupying force intent on changing what they felt was the fundamental character of the Hindu religion. Nonetheless, Phule had the discernment to aid the deliverance of an opponent when he bailed out an imprisoned Tilak and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar from Mumbai's Dongri Jail.

Phule also founded the *Satyashodhak Samaj* (Society of Truth-Seekers) in September 1873. The body was intended as an alternative to the largely upper-caste dominated reform movements that had been surging in India. These included the Brahmo Samaj, the Prarthana Samaj, as well as the Arya Samaj movements.

Defiant spirit: In 1848, Phule and wife Savitribai cofounded the first school for girls in India. FILE PHOTO

Breaking the chain

Revolution is a vehicle for change – social, economic, and political. The *Bombay Times* and *Journal of Commerce* had in 1857 called the sepoy revolt 'a deadly national rebellion'. However, Phule could not come to affiliate with the sepoy revolt, seeing it as a retrogression towards the ascendant theocracy of the Peshwa rule. He could not see a way to reconcile his social revolution with the tempest of 1857. Phule felt that the obstinacy of the orthodox upper-caste Hindus would consign the Dalits back into a state of depredation.

Writing in *Gulamgiri* (Slavery), Phule says, "This system of slavery, to which the Brahmins reduced the lower classes, is in no respects inferior to that which obtained a few years ago in America. In the days of rigid Brahmin dominancy, so lately as that of the time of the Peshwa, my Sudra brethren had even greater hardships and oppression practised upon them than what even the slaves in America had to suffer. To this system of selfish superstition and bigotry, we are to attribute the stagnation and all the evils under which India has been groaning for many centuries past."

"Only slaves can understand what it is to be a slave and what joy it is to be delivered from the chains of slavery. Now the only difference between them and the slaves in America is that whereas the blacks were captured and sold as slaves, the shudras and atishudras were conquered and enslaved by the bhats and brahmans," he states.

But Phule was also able to see that economic strengthening of the working poor among the lower castes could be a key to overthrowing the social imbalances. In his 'A Statement for the information of the Education Commission', Phule writes, "In villages also most of the cultivating classes hold aloof, owing to extreme poverty, and also because they require their children to tend cattle and look after their fields. Besides an increase in the number of schools, special inducements in the shape of scholarships and half-yearly or annual prizes, to encourage them to send their children to school and thus create in them a taste for learning, is most essential. I think primary education of the masses should be made compulsory up to a certain age, say at least 12 years."

In his *Satsar* (The Essence of Truth), Phule defended the right of Pandita Ramabai to convert to Christianity, the only non-Christian defence of its sort. The text is imagined as a dialogue between a Brahman and a Shudra.

"Brahman: But Tatya (younger brother), which religion do you belong to?

Shudra: Forget God and serve the brahmans! Do you think this ought to be our religion? We shall adopt Christianity or Islam whenever we feel like for our convenience. Or perhaps we shall ask for a religion for us from our Creator. You do not have to worry about us."

A constructive approach

In his *Shetkaryanche Asud* (Farmer's Whip), Phule argues for a constructive approach on the part of the administration.

Many of his ideas therein provide a secular alternative to resolving the extant questions of cow slaughter, the increase in crop production, and the development of civil infrastructure.

"The benevolent government should educate all the farmers, and until they become mature enough to use machines to do the usual things on the farms like European farmers, all the white people and the Mussalmans should slaughter goats and sheep instead of slaughtering cows and oxen; or they should import cattle and slaughter and eat them here, because otherwise there will not be sufficient supply of cattle for the farms, and there will not be enough compost and other fertiliser as well, and so neither the farmer, nor the government will benefit," Phule writes.

Arguing for the involvement of military administration in the work of civil construction, Phule says, "...construct small dams and bunds in such a way that this water would seep into the ground, and only later go and meet streams and rivers. This would make the land very fertile, and the soldiers in general, having got used to working in open air, will also improve their health and become strong. Even if they labour to the value of one anna every day, this will mean an increase in the government's earnings to the tune of twenty-five lakh per year, because our careful government has, including the police department, at least two lakh sepoys."

"... the government should allow the farmer to collect all the silt and other things extracted from rivers and lakes, as in the olden times, and it should also return all the cow pastures to the villages, which it has included in its 'forest'; it should, however, make sure that no firewood is collected, or land tilled in the areas that belong to it, and it should also forbid the cutting of wood for selling as wood for construction and destroy the oppressive the Forest Department," Phule contends.

The flowering of a true faith

Phule shared a complex and evolving relationship with both doctrinal religion and the idea of God. In his early years, he credits his childhood Muslim friends for revealing to him the fallacy of the Brahminical faith, and later still the work of the Christian missionaries likewise provides him with a robust critique of Hindu orthodoxy. Phule even wrote an abhang titled *Manav Mahammand* (Muhammad the man), which extolls the prophet of Islam as having liberated his people from the yoke of superstition and orthodoxy of his age. But Phule was also inspired by Paine's *Age of Reason*, and in his later years drew on the deistic strain of humanistic faith therein.

An echo of this rationalist tendency is most evident in his *Sarvajanik Satya Dharma Pustak*, a sort of last testament of his beliefs and convictions. In it, Phule responds to a query regarding the existence or lack thereof of a true scripture in this manner. "All the religious and revelatory books that man has produced on our planet, one and all, do not contain a consistent universal truth. This is so because in every such book are to be seen passages interpolated into those texts by certain groups of individuals as the situation in their view warranted and as their dogmatism and mulishness dictates. Consequently, those religions or faiths did not in the final analysis work towards the good of all. This in turn resulted in sects and sectarianism. Small wonder that these sects hated and turned against each other."

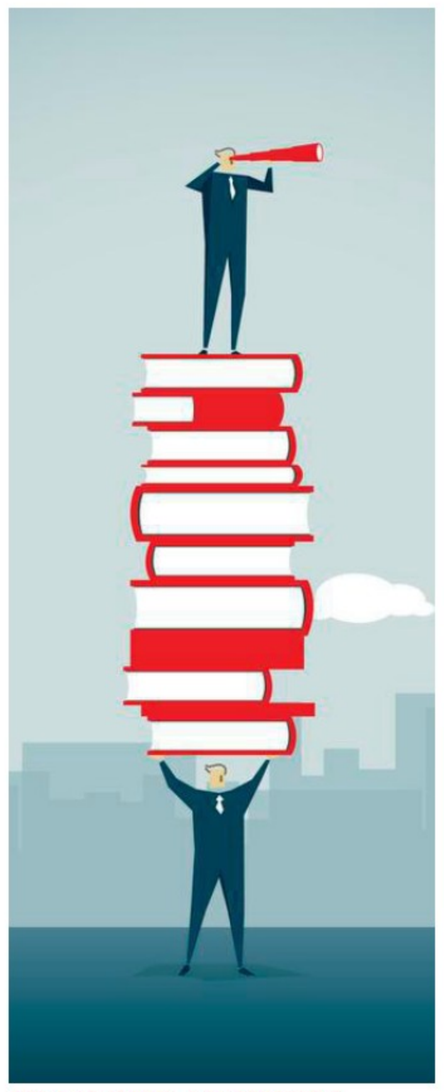
Rejecting sectarianism and supremacism, Phule reminds the reader that, "In sum, this solar system and naturally the planet earth which we inhabit are created by one Creator. Why is it then that the human beings living in different States and nations hate each other? How and why are the foolish passions of religions and national hatreds generated? There are any number of rivers on our planet. All of them eventually meet the sea. How and why, then can only one of those rivers be sacred? Does that sacred river ever hesitate to carry dogs' excreta to the sea?"

Denying any fundamental sacredness of some human beings over others, Phule stipulates that this is "clearly untenable". "All human beings on our planet are equipped with similar physical and intellectual facilities. How can some of them be 'sacred' generation after generation? Are they not born and do they not die like everyone else, and do they not have qualities good and bad like everyone else?" he writes.

Writing against the unevenness of polygamy, Phule presents a polyandrous argument to offset his counterposition. "Some lustful men who marry more than once, maintain almost a harem; justify their action with reference to some senseless religious text written by equally mulish men. How would they take it if some women were to marry more than one man to satisfy their lust? Would not these men think of right and wrong and be critical of their behaviour?" Phule contends therein.

Phule reminds the reader that the pernicious practice of caste is a human invention. Of it he opines, "Animals, birds, etc., all differ from each other anatomically. Likewise, two-legged human beings are different from four-legged animals. It is said that the Arya Brahma has created the four castes. He would have done so for the animals as well. Can you tell me then who are the brahmans among the donkeys, crows, etc.?"

Phule's life and times continue to be a source of inspiration to many progressives to date. His struggles, sometimes at risk to his own life and limb, and his tenacious pursuit of the ideal of a society liberated of its orthodox shell, are something worth learning from for our own age.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Looks like the hawala case has made many politicians antsy."

"Antsy? What does it mean?"

"It means 'nervous' or 'restless'. For example, 'You look a little antsy today. What's the matter?'"

"Meaning, why are you so nervous?"

"Exactly. Here's another example. I get antsy before exams."

"Who doesn't? My grandmother gets antsy whenever she has to visit the doctor."

"It's the doctor who gets antsy when I take my grandmother to him! How is your grandmother feeling now?"

"Pretty bad. She's still got the pneumonia."

"You don't use 'the' before 'pneumonia'. You usually say, 'Prem has pneumonia', or 'Sudhi has pneumonia'."

"I see. What are the other diseases where I don't have to use the definite article 'the'?"

"Good question. Let me see now. You don't use an article with 'cancer'. You have to say, 'my teacher has cancer'."

"Cancer has become very common these days."

"I know! 'Malaria' is another disease which doesn't take 'the' before it."

"I had malaria when I was young. But tell me, what about 'chicken pox'? Do you use an article before it?"

"It depends. You can either say, 'My neighbour has chicken pox' or 'My neighbour has the chicken pox'."

"So both are possible."

"Yes. That's right."

"How about...?"

"... I've had enough of diseases. Chill out, will you?"

"Chill out?"

"It means 'to calm down, relax'."

"So, if somebody is shouting at me, can I say, 'Hey, chill out!'?"

"You certainly can. Here's another example. 'The captain asked the team to chill out before taking the field.'"

"When the players started fighting, the umpires asked them to chill out."

"May be that's what we should ask our antsy politicians to do. Instead of accusing one another, they should just chill out."

Published in The Hindu on February 13, 1996

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on Dalit activists on Jyotiba Phule's birth anniversary

Srinivasan Ramani
Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
On 20 March 1927, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar led an agitation to allow Dalits to use water in a public tank in a place in Raigad district. Name the place.

QUESTION 2
Savitribhai Phule wrote a collection of poems in 1854. Name the collection.

QUESTION 3
This Dalit freedom fighter was India's Defence Minister during the Bangladesh War of Liberation. Name him.

QUESTION 4
This Dalit activist from the then Madras Presidency represented Dalits in the two Round Table Conferences held with the British in the early 1930s alongside Dr. Ambedkar. Name him.

QUESTION 5
This social reformer launched the Sadhujana Paripalana Sangham to campaign for the education of Dalits in Kerala in 1907. Name him.

Visual Question: Identify this Dalit activist and politician who coined the popular slogan, "*Gaaye nu puchhdu taame rakho, aamne amaari jameen aapo*" (you keep the cow's tail, give us our land) in a protest movement in Gujarat in mid-2016. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Which team has played the most finals without winning a title? **Ans: Kerala Blasters**
2. Which is the most successful ISL team considering both League Shields and ISL Trophies? **Ans: Mumbai City FC (2 shields and 2 trophies)**
3. Which continental tournament does the shield winner qualify to play in? **Ans: AFC Champions League 2**
4. Name the first team to defend the League Shield? **Ans: Mohun Bagan SG**
5. 13 teams competed in this season's ISL. How many teams participated in the inaugural edition of the competition? **Ans: 8**

Visual: This team became the first team to be promoted to the ISL, establishing the competition status as India's top-tier league. Name the team and the league it was promoted from. **Ans: Punjab FC, I-League**

Early Birds: Priyadarshini Singh | Sunny Kumar

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Word of the day

Antipathy:
a feeling of intense dislike

Synonyms: enmity, hate, grudge

Usage: *She felt a strong antipathy towards lying.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/antipathypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ænˈtɪpəθi:/

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Caste census: Lingayats, Vokkaligas may adopt wait-and-watch approach

Though the CM had said the survey issue would be discussed in the Cabinet, it did not materialise allegedly owing to pressure from some Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The politically dominant, land-owning Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities, which have for long opposed the socio, economic and educational survey (caste census) conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes are expected to adopt a "wait and watch" approach on the outcome of the Friday's Cabinet meeting, where the issue is likely to be discussed. It has been nearly a decade since the survey was completed.

Sources said that the "sudden" decision to bring the issue before the Cabinet, apparently nudged by the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, at the Ahmedabad Congress session earlier this week, had taken both communities by surprise.

The caste census report being submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes head K. Jayaprakash Hegde. FILE PHOTO

This had made a coordinated response difficult immediately, said the sources.

Not done earlier

Though in the past announcements were made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that the survey would be discussed in the Cabinet, it did not happen, allegedly under pressure from his Cabinet colleagues from the dominant communities. However, the issue finding mention in the agenda, which became public on Wednesday, has taken many by surprise.

The Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha and Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha, that were vocal in their opposition to the earlier moves to bring the issue for discussion in the Cabinet, have said they will wait for the outcome and then formulate a response. The mahasabha had even passed a resolution opposing the survey data in its current form, terming it "unscientific." Both communities have sought a re-survey.

Submitted by Hegde

While the survey was conducted during the tenure of H. Kantharaj in 2015-2016, the report was finally submitted to the government in 2024 by K. Jayaprakash Hegde.

Government sources said that a sub-committee or a commission could be tasked to go through the survey report and make recommendations. It is anticipated that the report could be opened on Friday, sources said.

"Let the issue be discussed in the Cabinet. We will also explore avenues, including legal recourse, to oppose it. We will meet the Cabinet Ministers from the community and also the seer of Adichunchangiri Mutt Nirmalananda Swami," said Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha president Kenchappa Gowda.

A source in the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha said that they would see whether the survey report would cause damage to the community or not.

"We are not against the survey. But it has to be scientific. Let them reveal the data and we also have our data. We are exploring all possibilities," the sources said.

Panel chief's post vacant

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over a year after K. Jayaprakash Hegde demitted office as chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, the post continues to remain vacant.

After submitting his report, Mr. Hegde had stepped down and contested in Udupi-Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha constituency in the parliamentary polls on Congress ticket and lost.

The commission has been in the news for nearly a decade over the socio, economic and educational survey that it conducted in 2015-2016.

"The post remaining vacant is a cause for concern and contradicts CM Siddaramaiah's image as the champion of Backward Classes. It is also very disappointing and surprising that it has not been filled by the government," a former commission official said.

Clearance of bills: Contractors' assn. alleges favouritism

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday, alleging that contrary to assurances, seniority was not being followed while clearing pending bills in Water Resources, Public Works, and Minor Irrigation Departments and "invisible forces" were at work to create Special Letter of Credit (LoC) to big contractors to jump the queue.

The association has also separately written to the Ministers concerned – D.K. Shivakumar, Satish Jarkiholi, and N.S. Boseraju, respectively, flagging these concerns.

Role of 'middlemen'

R. Manjunath, president of the association, said that contractors had been suffering for over three years now without payments and the situation was only being exacerbated by "middlemen" working for big contractors to get their bills cleared by jumping the queue, leaving small and medium scale contractors at the receiving end.

He appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resolve the problem soon. Talking to presspersons, he even said that if it was not resolved, the association would start "taking names and talk openly".

'Son making deals'

Mr. Manjunath also alleged that the son of the Minister for Minor Irrigation was directly "making deals." Mr. Boseraju, however, denied the allegations, saying if any wrongdoing was proved, he would resign.

Responding to the allegations, Mr. Shivakumar asked the contractors to lodge a complaint with the Lokayukta and the government. "Our government doesn't encourage corruption," he said.

In the letter written to Mr. Jarkiholi, the association said that in his Ministry, bills were being cleared as per seniority and the sanctity of the process was being maintained till recently, but in the last three months this had changed.

Jumping the queue

"Even after a decision to clear the bills as per seniority was taken at the meeting, bills are being cleared jumping the queue," the letter said, and alleged that "invisible forces" were spoiling the system in the department for the past three to four months. The association had requested him to immediately convene a meeting of contractors and provide documents on criteria followed for clearing the bills.

Mr. Jarkiholi, speaking to mediapersons on Thursday, hit back at the contractors' allegations, saying bills were being cleared in a transparent manner. He said it was true that Special LOC was given to some contractors who requested for the same in genuine cases and that there were "no invisible forces at play" behind this.

Ashok: State's administrative centre has shifted from Vidhana Soudha to Wayanad

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the Karnataka government allowing shooting of a Malayalam film in the Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills that comes under Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok remarked that Karnataka's administrative centre has "shifted from Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru to Wayanad", which is represented by Priyanka Gandhi in the Lok Sabha.

In a release here, Mr. Ashok pointed out that the local Assistant Conservator of Forests had made it clear that permission to shoot the film in the area had not been given by local officials and had been obtained at the government level.

"The government should clarify who gave such an approval at the government level and who is behind it," he demanded. Pointing out that the State Forest Department had earlier given compensation to the family of the victim of elephant attack in Wayanad following a letter in this regard by the then Wayanad MP and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Mr. Ashok wanted to know if there was any similar instruction from the Congress high command now to allow film shooting.

The Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills fall under BRT. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Ashok alleged that corruption had reached menacing proportions in the government and added that the government had run out of funds to take up any development works. Such a situation had triggered anguish among people against the government, forcing the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues from touring the State as they were not confident of facing the people.

Mr. Ashok alleged that the power tussle within the Congress and the government had resulted in the Chief Minister losing his grip over administration.

Make Karnataka villages 'podi mukta gramas': CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to make Karnataka villages 'podi mukta gramas' by rectifying errors in RTCs (Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops) issued to farmers by conducting a survey.

Speaking after inaugurating a programme to mark the 36th National Land Survey Day organised by the Revenue Department here, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that 36 Assistant Director of Land Records & Survey Settlement officials would be recruited to complete the land survey in the State.

Appointments for the posts of land surveyors has been conducted in a transparent manner and letters would be issued to recruit surveyors soon, the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also appealed to the land surveyors to ensure that all encroachments of tanks and lakebed areas in urban and rural areas are cleared.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister of Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda at the 36th National Survey Day event organised in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ease of living

In order to ensure the ease of living of farmers, he told the Land Survey Department to conduct a survey in a proper manner to issue RTCs to farmers. Farmers would not complain to the government if the assistant commissioners and tahsildars ensured efficient delivery of services to farmers, the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has been efficiently functioning and all the data of the department is at his fingertips.

Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda, MLAs and senior officials attended the programme.

Cong. protest on April 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To counter the BJP's ongoing Janakrosha Yatre against the Congress government in the State, the the State unit of the Congress has decided to launch a protest against the NDA government at the Centre against the hike in prices of fuel and essential commodities.

The protest will be held at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on April 17.

The BJP's Janakrosha Yatre is a protest against the Congress government in the State against the rise in prices of essential commodities.

This was following the hike in the prices of milk, electricity, water, public transport, and Bengaluru Metro. Meanwhile, the Union government has increased the price of LPG.

At the party office, KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar said the BJP should launch Janakrosha Yatre against the Narendra Modi-led government and not the Siddaramaiah-led State government.

BJP to take out bike rally to Nippani

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-wheeler rally will be taken out by the BJP from Bengaluru to Nippani from Friday to mark the centenary of B.R. Ambedkar's visit to Nippani. About 1,000 two-wheelers will be part of the rally titled '*Bheema hejje*-100' that will be flagged off from the Ambedkar statue in front of Vidhana Soudha, according to BJP Bengaluru North District President S. Harish.

A convention would be organisesd in Nippani on April 15 to mark the centenary of Ambedkar's visit, said Mr. Harish.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Harish said April 11 was the day when Dr. Ambedkar visited the State for the first time, 100 years ago. Taking a dig at the State government, he remarked that the Congress that held a programme to mark the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Belagavi had ignored the centenary of Ambedkar's visit.

Make rules to act against officials who do not enforce law stopping transfer of SC/ST land: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government should adopt and implement proper mechanisms to take to task erring officials who fail to take immediate action under the provisions of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, 1978, by making suitable provisions in this Act and the rules, said the High Court of Karnataka.

A Division Bench comprising Justice V. Kameswar Rao and Justice T.M. Nadaf made this suggestion while pointing out that the court has been observing certain shortcomings in initiating action when land granted to SCs/STs is alienated in violation of the provisions of this law. The Bench upheld a single judge's 2022 verdict of setting aside the 2009 decision of the Special DC, Bengaluru, who had ordered for restoration of land, granted in

1981-82 to a SC person, which was alienated and sold in 1998. The Bench found that though there was no prior permission under the PTCL Act, 1978, when the sale deed was executed in 1996, the sale was legal as the deed was registered only in 1998 after permission was granted.

Meanwhile, the Bench said that though the State government had enacted the PTCL Act back in 1978 with all rigour of provisions, however, the officials enjoined with the powers of the Act are very slow to respond, despite *suo-moto* powers given to take immediate actions.

"The lack of willingness on the part of the authorities to initiate proceedings at the earliest, with the lands granted being the Government land and waiting for the grantees or the descendants to approach the authorities to point out alienation of land in violation of conditions, shows the apathy with which the provisions are dealt with," the Bench observed.

A Beneficial Act, enacted with an object of providing a helping hand to the socially and economically depressed class, fails if the provisions of the PTCL Act are not properly implemented in line with the object with which it is enacted, the Bench said.

It pointed out that the PTCL Act was enacted after it was found that non-alienation clauses on granted lands in the then laws were found insufficient to help the suppressed class whose ignorance and poverty has been exploited by the persons belonging to affluent and powerful sections.

Teachers requested not to hinder promotion process

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has initiated the process of promoting Graduate Primary Teachers (GPT) and Primary School Teachers (PST) of the Kalyana Karnataka region to the posts of Grade-2 cadre High School Assistant Teachers from April 17.

Now, in an unprecedented move, Akash S., Additional Commissioner of Public Instruction of the Kalaburagi Division has appealed to the teachers not to take any action that may hinder this process by approaching courts. He has written to president/secretary of Karnataka (6-8) State Graduate Primary Teachers' Association, Bengaluru, and Kalaburagi on Wednesday requesting them not to let the promotion process be stayed by the court and has sought their co-operation.

The issue

After the appointment of GPT teachers for classes 6 to 8 in government schools in the State from the year 2015-16, PST teachers have been scheduled to teach only from classes 1 to 5 as per the rules. However, thousands of PST teachers also have the educational qualifications with a B.Ed degree and there was a demand to promote them to the high school cadre, but the teacher promotion process had been stalled for about 10 years in the State.

Recent notification

The government had recently issued a notification with some clarifications regarding the promotion of GPT and PST teachers to the post of high school grade-2 teachers.

In accordance with this notification, the DSEL, which has taken steps for the promotion of teachers, has announced a schedule to complete the processes on the basis of educational qualifications and seniority from April 17 to May 20 and make placements through counselling.

There are a total of 2,878 vacancies in the cadre of high school assistant teachers in Kalyana Karnataka districts, and the government has taken steps to promote PST and GPT teachers to all these posts.

In larger interest

Dr. Akash S. has already held several meetings with officials and the Karnataka State Graduate Primary Teachers' Association on the promotion process. In the letter he states that this move will benefit many PST and GPT assistant teachers of Kalaburagi division, many of whom are on the verge of retirement.

"If the promotion process takes place as per the government notification, it will be a positive step in Kalyana Karnataka in terms of education. We seek your full cooperation and agreement for this and I request you not to take any action that may hinder this process and I expect your full cooperation in the educational interest of Kalyana Karnataka," he appealed in the letter.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

P.C.FRANCIS (66), Retired Senior Supervisor, Transport, The Hindu, Mumbai passed away on 10-04-2025. Address: Parassey House P.O Ponjanam Kattoor, Thrissur District Pin Code - 680702 Contact: 9048243800.

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of
Manharlal Vasanji Shah
(1952–2025)
With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Manharlal Vasanji Shah on **April 5, 2025**, aged 72.
Beloved husband, father, and vibrant soul.
He is survived by his wife Nirmala, daughter Deepika, and son Keyur. His spirit, warmth, and laughter will live on in all who had the privilege of knowing him.
Om Shanti.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Vakeesa Kalanidhi
SRI. KI.VA. JAGANNATHAN
11.04.1906

Sabha before restoration. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sabha after restoration. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sabha: A new public space for arts and culture enthusiasts in Bengaluru

Located on Kamaraj Road in Shivajinagar, flanked by shops and houses, Sabha is an oasis of calm in the city's busy commercial hub. The space is holding its first open house on April 12 and 13

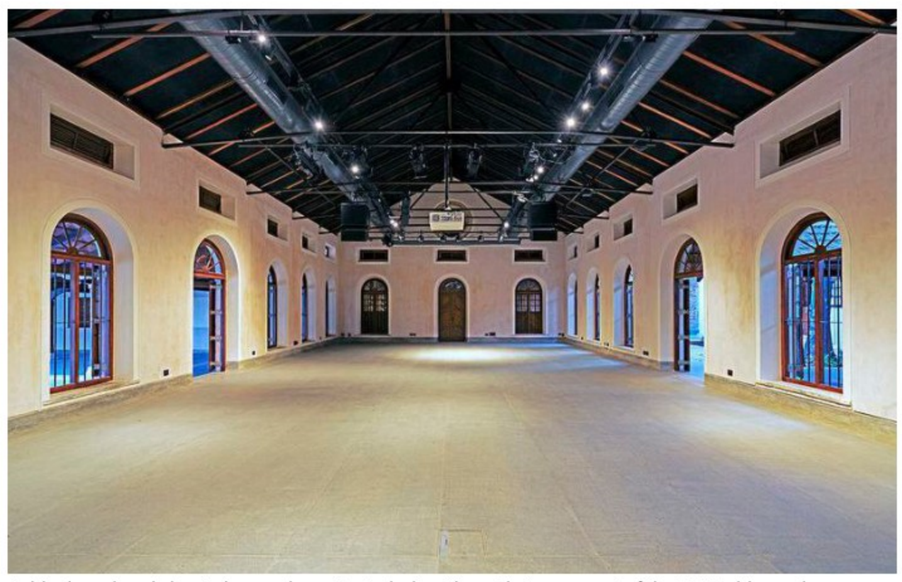
Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

With the world getting very polarised, arts and the humanities are extremely important," says Ravichandar V., explaining the raison d'être behind Sabha, a new arts and community centre in Bengaluru, which is all set to host its first open house this weekend. And it is why places like Sabha, envisioned by Ravichandar as a "privately enabled, public purpose space," with a "focus on arts, crafts and culture," are needed.

As someone who has been deeply invested in organising and promoting cultural events in the city for decades, Ravichandar firmly believes that there are simply not enough public spaces for the arts in Bengaluru. Unfortunately, it is also an area where overall philanthropic funding is traditionally low in India. "We have a lot of problems in health, education, livelihood, and so on, so understandably, the bulk of philanthropic money goes towards them," says the Bengaluru-based civic evangelist and cultural advocate, a trustee of Ammini Trust, which has spearheaded and funded this project.

"So, my wife and I decided that our family trust, Ammini Trust, would help create public spaces in Bengaluru for arts, crafts and conversations," he says, adding that Sabha will be primarily geared towards showcasing visual and performing arts and for artisans to display their work. "The primary motivation really was to create a public space since we don't have enough," he says. "Of course, other people are doing amazing work, but we could do much more for a city of 14 million."

Some of the changes that were made included restoring the 160-year-old Madras Terrace of the first building, using the original construction method, and redoing the new roof of the second building to make it a performance space. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Sabha has already hosted several events, including those that were part of the BLRHabba and Bangalore Art Weekend. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

About Sabha

On a warm weekday afternoon, I visit Sabha, located on the Kamaraj Road in Shivajinagar, flanked by shops and houses, a light-filled, airy oasis of calm in the city's busy commercial hub. Ravichandar shows me around the place, highlighting the attempts to retain the original structure and repurpose already-existing material, a nod to minimal environmental impact and heritage preservation.

The property, which consists of two buildings, one with a flat Madras Terrace and the other with a pitched roof, linked by a courtyard, retains its old-world charm, thanks to its carved wooden pillars, large windows and heavy doors. But there is no stinting on contemporary accoutrements, either, including a retractable platform, air conditioning, a projector screen and top-class lighting and sound systems.

According to Ravichandar, the school, the first building of which was built over 160 years ago, belongs to the RBANM's Educational Charities, founded by Dharmarathnakara Rai Bahadur Arcot Narrainsawmy Mudaliar, one of the most wealthy gentry of those times. Narrainsawmy Mudaliar, a self-made man who had started his life as a vegetable trader, was deeply invested in education, especially for the less fortunate, and went on to establish many educational institutes in the city. "His descendants continue to run these schools as non-profits, focusing on education for the underprivileged," he says. "Among their many properties is this one on Kamaraj Road, which has now become Sabha. "

The property, which has been in disuse for over 20 years, was in bad shape when the Ammini Trust took over. "The wood had given way, the structures were damaged, there were a lot of leakages," recalls Ravichandar, listing some of the changes that were made, which included restoring the 160-year-old Madras Terrace of the first building, using the original construction method, redoing the new roof of the second building to make it a performance space, doing a damp proof course to prevent water seepage into the walls and raising the plinth of the building to make it flood proof. Architect Bijoy Ramachandran of Hundredhands, the same person who did BIC, was roped in to restore this property with minimum waste, he explains. "We also had a well-respected conservation consultant, Professor Rabindra Vasavada, based out of Ahmedabad, who guided us through this whole process," he says. While Ravichandar prefers not to disclose the actual cost of the entire restoration, he does mention that restoration is around 40% more expensive than constructing a new building from scratch. However, he is also convinced that the additional expense is worth it and hopes that it will inspire more philanthropists to go down the heritage-restoration route. "I wouldn't look at it as an expensive project, but one worth investing in because the city benefits, there is this learning moment about heritage conservation and a connection between past traditions and current modernity. You cannot put a value to those things."

Inside Sabha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As far as ensuring economic sustainability is concerned, Ravichandar says that they plan to cover the running costs of Sabha by "renting the place out, carefully curating this by ensuring that the people who come fit into our larger ethos," he says. Additionally, any surpluses generated will go towards bringing arts and crafts to underprivileged children. "We have built a community here of 60 kids from relatively disadvantaged backgrounds and do art classes for them," says Ravichandar.

Open day and more

Sabha, which was finished in March 2024 and has already hosted several events, including those that were part of the BLRHabba and Bangalore Art Weekend, is now all geared towards hosting its first open house weekend. "This is the first time Sabha is doing its own programming," says Dipti Ramesh, Ravichandar's daughter-in-law, who has curated this event. "We decided to do a little bit of our own programming to showcase the full capacity of what Sabha has to offer."

The lineup for this open house weekend, to held on April 12 and 13 from 10 am onwards, will have something for both children and adults, free of cost, including music performances, sketching sessions, talks, heritage walks, a flea market, storytelling and magic shows and a book launch by a young author. Some of the highlights include a special morning walk through the neighborhood around Kamraj Road led by Arun Pai of Bangalore Walks; a show by young magician Jayant Patwari, all of 14; a traipse through the Bangalore Cantonment area at night, led by Gully Tours; a talk about the city's temples and a performance by Susheela Raman, Sam Mills and Jeet Thayil, titled *A Golden String*, which delves into the prophetic words and vision of the poet William Blake.

According to Dipti, two main ideas went into the programming. "We wanted to stay rooted in RBANM's value system of this being an educational space, so we wanted to keep the doors open for children," she says. Additionally, there is a lot of focus on the city of Bengaluru. "The idea was to keep us rooted in the culture of the children and the culture of heritage, and how we were placed at the juxtaposition of those two," says Dipti, who believes that while this is the first of Sabha's original programming, more such will follow.

To know more about Sabha, follow the Instagram page @sabhablr

DHL Group strengthens disaster preparedness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

DHL Group conducted its second GoHelp Disaster Response Team (DRT) training in India. The two-day training session, held on April 5-6 at a DHL facility in Bengaluru, aimed to equip employees with the skills necessary to respond effectively to natural and man-made disasters across the South Asia region.

This marks the second DRT training in India, following the inaugural session held in 2013. Thirty employees from across DHL's business units participated in the intensive training.

Doll exhibition to be held in city

Students will be displaying dolls of legendary Indian scientists and engineers along with their groundbreaking work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sci-Tech Legends of India: A Doll Exhibition will be inaugurated in the city on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. onwards. The event, which will be held at the exhibition hall of the Office of Communications, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and is open to the general public until April 25, is organised as part of the undergraduate humanities course "Mapping India with Folk Arts," taught by Dr. Bitasta Das.

According to Das, "each year, the course focuses on a specific folk-art form, exploring its regional variations across the country and delving into the unique cultural contexts and diversity of each region," she says, adding that this course is designed to help budding scientists and engineers develop an awareness of the country's cultural heritage. "For a country to progress, its nation-builders must be mindful not only of modern advancements but also sensitive to the everyday lives of its people. This course aims to cultivate empathy and appreciation for the lived knowledge of the common people of India."

As part of the exhibition, the students will be displaying dolls of legendary Indian scientists and engineers along with their groundbreaking work. Das explains that, in anticipation of this exhibition, cultural legends were discussed with the students to fulfill this aim. As a conclusion to the course, the contributions of legendary figures in science and technology will be highlighted through the crafts made by the students, she says.

The exhibition is organised as part of the undergraduate humanities course 'Mapping India with Folk Arts.' SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Dolls of famous scientists like Aryabhatta, C.V. Raman, J.C. Bose, Rohini Godbole, G.N. Ramachandran, among others, will be displayed along with their contribution to the field of science and technology."

To know more about the exhibition, log in to https://tinyurl.com/yp55z4dk

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 11, 1975

Govt. Studying Alternative to Octroi

Bangalore, April 10: The Transport Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali said here to-day that the Karnataka Government was thinking of an alternate taxation to replace the "out-dated" octroi levy. Inaugurating the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Mysore Automobile Farts and Allied Merchants' Association and a seminar on "Transport Trinity in Turmoil" at the Ravindra Kalakshetra here to-day, Mr. Mohammed Ali said that the octroi had to be replaced by some other levy like a surcharge on turn over tax. Personally, he was against octroi as it encouraged corruption and other malpractices and therefore had to be dispensed with as soon as possible. The Government-constituted Karge Committee was looking into this question.

The Minister said that the Government was concerned with the flooding of the market with spurious automobile spare parts. This was sometimes affecting the genuine spare parts manufactures.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Reward for killing the wild beasts

There were regular shoot orders to kill wild animals during the colonial times in Karnataka and elsewhere in India. B. Lewis Rice, in a gazetteer compiled for government and published in 1897, noted that money was paid for the 'destruction of wild beasts.' The amount fixed was ₹40 for leopard (mentioned in the gazetteer as panthers) or tiger.

How much was paid for hunting down

The 1897 gazetteer published by B. Lewis Rice also states that in 1891-92, ₹2,303 was paid to the people for hunting down 148 leopards. In the previous year, 1890-91, ₹1,946 was paid for the killing of 115 leopards in the entire region of Mysore. This was with reference to the Princely State of Mysore and not the present district in Karnataka.

Pioneers in wildlife protection law

The maharajas of Mysore, once hunters like most royalty of the time, were quick to realise the imperatives of wildlife protection and were pioneers in this field. They enacted the Mysore Game and Fish Preservation Act, in 1901, to curb wanton killing of wild animals. It defined game areas and provided protection to a wide variety of wildlife.

Leopards outside protected areas

The Status of Leopard in India, 2022, published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, estimated the leopard population in Karnataka at 1,879. But it pointed out that 59% of them lived outside the protected areas such as Bandipur and Nagarahole. This explains sightings of leopards outside protected areas in multiple instances.

Leopards killing domestic animals

Between November 2022 and January 2023, leopards were responsible for the death of around 516 domestic animals in Mandya district alone. Meanwhile, there was a surge in human and domestic animal kills in places such as Mysuru, Nanjangud, H.D. Kote, T. Narsipura, according to National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Living with leopards in Mysuru

Contrary to prevailing narrative, it is not leopards straying into villages or cities, but humans intruding in to their territory that has increased sightings and augmented conflict

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

For a city recognised as a tourist destination for all seasons, Mysuru is also the gateway to famed tiger reserves and elephant sanctuaries like Bandipur and Nagarahole – both of which are just a short drive away.

While the city is no stranger to wildlife, which is part of the region's identity, Mysuru was in the spotlight in recent times due to high frequency of leopard sightings in its industrial and residential localities.

It is not that leopards have suddenly made their way into Mysuru – they have long been a part of the region's landscape. But with unchecked urbanisation and the city's horizontal sprawl steadily encroaching upon their natural habitats, encounters between leopards and residents have become increasingly common. This is drawing attention to the 'presence' of the spotted big cats but which, in fact, have always been around.

The landscape surrounding Mysuru includes agricultural fields and reserve forests where leopards come to dwell. M.A. SRIRAM

More than 150 leopards have been trapped and relocated from Mysuru and Mandya districts in two years since the Leopard Task Force was constituted in January 2023. M.A. SRIRAM

Two recent cases

In recent months, two high-profile industrial installations in Mysuru suffered a ''security breach''. A leopard sauntered into the 350-acre campus of Infosys forcing the company employees to work from home.

The Forest Department scoured the campus for almost a month, deployed its staff on a 24x7 basis to monitor the site, installed camera traps and checked for fresh pugmarks but only to draw a blank after which the search operation was disbanded.

Within weeks, another leopard slipped into the woods surrounding the Reserve Bank of India' currency note printing unit. However, the leopard was not as lucky as its counterpart at Infosys, and after a few weeks of persistent effort, the forest department managed to outwit the big spotted cat and capture it much to the relief of the employees.

Leopard sighting and their capture from the industrial areas in and around Mysuru are not new, and multiple incidents - of leopard capture - have been reported from the BEML campus alone. In November 2022, a leopard sneaked into Brindavan Gardens, a popular tourist destination, and forced the authorities to close the gardens for public for a prolonged period.

In addition, presence of wildlife in industrial areas such as Metagalli, Hootagalli, Belawadi, Kadakola etc have been reported in the past and is not hard to explain as these were villages surrounded by scrub vegetation. They were developed into industrial layouts only in the recent decades. And contrary to prevailing narrative it is not that leopards stray into villages or cities, but it is human intrusion in to their territory that has increased sightings and augmented conflict.

Scrub jungle

Even today, scrub forests and agricultural fields extend to miles on end beyond the factory clusters. Though the habitat has eroded over the years, leopards have adapted to the changing milieu and thrived, according to forest department officials.

Mysuru is about 80 km from both Bandipur and Nagarahole, but the forest boundaries are linked by stretches of scrub jungle, which in turn connect to agricultural lands with a mosaic of sugarcane fields, fallow plots, and patches of wilderness. This landscape continuity provides crucial connectivity for leopard movement and dispersal.

Within the city, Chamundi Hills, designated as a reserve forest, along with its surrounding areas, also serves as a green pocket within the urban sprawl–offering cover, prey, and passage for wildlife all of which have combined to create a unique setting where humans and leopards increasingly cross paths. In addition, Chamundi Hills itself is surrounded by a landscape marked by agricultural fields and patches of wilderness that connect to reserve forests including Arabhitittu, facilitating free movement of leopards.

A leopard in conflict situation trapped near Mysuru and being relocated. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the proliferation of CCTV surveillance cameras and the social media have played a role in high rate of detection of leopards and dissemination of the news, the reality is that the big spotted cats have for long lived alongside humans, silently navigating the fringes of the city.

Experts and wildlife biologists have emphasised that, unlike tigers, leopards are the most adaptable of the big cats as they can survive not only in dense forests but also in agricultural fields, farmhouses, and semi-urban areas. And from the leopard's perspective, Mysuru ticks all the right boxes as it provides the perfect blend of conditions required for them to thrive.

That leopard population is significant in the landscape around Mysuru is evident in the statistics provided by the forest department. According to Dr. I.B. Prabhugoud, Deputy Conservator of Forests and head of Leopard Task Force, nearly 150 leopards have been captured and translocated from Mysuru and surrounding regions in two years.

The Leopard Task Force was established in January 2023 as in the preceding few months, four people were killed in leopard attacks in T. Narsipura taluk alone. And ever since it was established, the LTF has attended to nearly 2500 complaints pertaining to leopard sighting - though a majority of them could not be described as a conflict.

Though the LTF handles cases in Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar districts, out of 150 leopards that were captured till the end of March 2025, 122 of them were captured in Mysuru district. Of these, 48 were from Mysuru taluk which underlines how the landscape was suitable for leopards to survive and live cheek-by-jowl in a human-dominated landscape.

But for wildlife like leopards to survive, there should be adequate prey population and Dr. Prabhugoud pointed out that livestock is their first preference, as evident in the number of complaints pertaining to cattle kills by leopards. Around the city, leopards prey on street dogs apart from poultry waste that is dumped on the city outskirts.

While increase in leopard sighting heightens tension in the local community, forest

Multiple incidents of leopards being captured from the BEML campus in Mysuru have been reported over the years. M.A. SRIRAM

Forest Department spent nearly a month looking for a leopard which was sighted on Infosys campus in Mysuru in January 2025, but it evaded capture and gave them a slip. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Department has made efforts to educate the public about leopard behaviour and the dos and don'ts that need to be complied with, to evade a conflict.

The key is to stop dumping poultry and meat waste on the outskirts of the localities which draws dogs and in turn, are preyed upon by leopards. There is a surge in leopard sightings during winter as it is mating season and hence people are advised to walk in groups during dawn and dusk, which is when the leopards are most active.

Farmers have been instructed to be in large groups in their fields during sugarcane harvesting which is where leopards tend to leave behind their cubs. Or the mother could be with the cubs making it susceptible to be more aggressive when it senses danger from humans. But generally, leopards tend to slither away at the sight of a crowd and hence people are advised to seek security in numbers. Keeping livestock tethered in secure enclosures is another advisory to reduce predation on domestic animals and mitigate conflict.

Proposal on enclosure

While the forest department is pursuing a ''capture and relocate'' protocol with regard to leopards in human landscape, there is also a proposal to create an enclosure or sanctuary to house leopards captured in conflict situations.

A 92-acre plot of land which is part of territorial forest at Yelwal, on the outskirts of Mysuru city, has been identified for the purpose. The facility will have a capacity to house 100 leopards and cost ₹73 crore in the first phase. Though it may appear to be a practical solution, experts aver that housing leopards in confined spaces or in cages was not the way forward to redress the problem.

A more realistic approach is to protect the wilderness of the city through habitat conservation, besides strengthening and securing wildlife corridors through scientific landscape management. This could be reinforced by implementing conflict mitigation strategies such as early warning system, reduction of prey animals in peripheral areas by adopting animal birth control measures for dogs, garbage management etc and nudge the leopards toward their natural habitat, rather than allow them to be lured to the city periphery due to easy availability of prey animals. Experts believe such an approach offers a living example of co-existence with wildlife. It also represents a sustainable alternative providing a win-win situation for both humans and leopards and should be pursued, instead of locking them in cages.

INBRIEF

52-kg ganja recovered from abandoned bags in Telangana

Over 52 kilograms of ganja, estimated to be worth ₹26 lakh, was seized by the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) during a surprise inspection at Telangana's Secunderabad Railway Station on Wednesday. The seizure unfolded after the police discovered four suspicious bags abandoned beside a food stall. The team opened the bags and found 26 parcels of dry ganja, each weighing around two kilograms. A probe has been initiated.

120-kg pearls worth ₹1 crore donated to Vontimitta temple

An Andhra Pradesh native, Kalyana Apparao, donated ₹1 crore worth pearls (Talambralu) to use during the 'Sita Rama Kalyanam' at Vontimitta temple on Friday. The 120-kg pearls were handed over to the temple authorities. The rice that went into the preparation of Talambralu was specially cultivated for three months and devotees from the two Telugu States, along with those from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Delhi, took several weeks to peel them.

A.P. truckers back Karnataka counterparts' call for strike

Members of the Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owners' Association (APLOA) have announced their support for the strike call given by the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association (FOKSLOAA), beginning at midnight on April 14. In a statement, the Andhra Pradesh truck owners' body has asked lorry owners across the State to extend their cooperation by not sending their vehicles to Karnataka during the strike period.

ED seeks plaint copy in case naming Pinarayi's daughter

Central agency hopes to review final complaint in the CMRL pay-off case to determine whether offences that would attract provisions of the PMLA have been committed by the respondents

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has approached the Special Court in Kochi which is trying the cases booked by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) for a copy of the final complaint in the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) pay-off case in which T. Veena, daughter of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been listed as a respondent.

Incidentally, the SFIO had listed Ms. Veena as the 13th respondent in the case. The Special Court will review the final complaint to find out whether an offence has been made out against the respondents, including Ms. Veena. Notices will be issued to Ms. Veena and other respondents before the court takes cognizance of the complaint.

Protest scenes: Congress members, demanding CM's resignation over CMRL pay-off case, burn effigy of Pinarayi Vijayan. K.K. MUSTAFAH

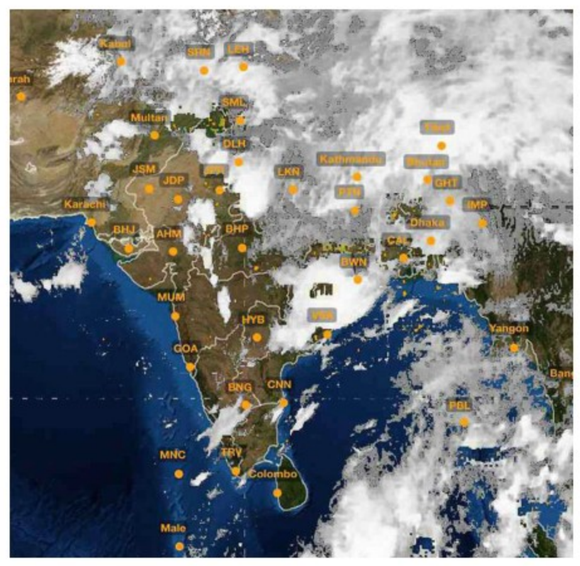
The ED hopes to review the final complaint to find out whether offences that would attract the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act have been committed by the respondents in the case.

In its final complaint, the SFIO had reportedly found that Ms. Veena and her now defunct firm, Exalogic, had received "fraudulent payments" to the tune of ₹2.7 crore from CMRL. The agency had listed Sasidharan Kartha, managing director of CMRL, Exalogic, and Empower India Capital Investments Private Limited as the other respondents in the final complaint.

Mr. Vijayan on Thursday accused his political opponents and a section of the media at a press conference of baying for his blood.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over west Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.2	24.6	Kozhikode	18	33.6	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	43.3	27.9	Kurnool	—	39.4	27.3
Aizawl	17.8	35.0	19.2	Lucknow	2	25.9	23.4
Allahabad	—	32.4	25.0	Madurai	—	38.0	25.6
Bengaluru	—	32.9	22.7	Mangaluru	5	33.4	22.5
Bhopal	—	41.3	25.0	Mumbai	—	33.8	27.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.2	24.5	Mysuru	—	37.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	38.9	24.1	New Delhi	—	39.6	25.9
Chennai	—	38.1	26.0	Patna	42.6	32.2	24.2
Coimbatore	—	34.4	25.6	Port Blair	0.5	30.6	24.8
Dehradun	0.2	33.2	20.1	Puducherry	—	36.0	27.0
Gangtok	1	15.6	13.5	Pune	—	41.8	26.5
Goa	—	35.0	27.0	Raipur	0.4	40.1	25.3
Guwahati	—	32.5	21.0	Ranchi	—	31.2	21.5
Hubballi	—	36.0	22.0	Shillong	13.7	22.4	13.7
Hyderabad	—	37.6	24.5	Shimla	—	28.5	18.0
Imphal	—	31.4	18.3	Srinagar	3	19.1	10.4
Jaipur	—	41.1	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.8	33.0	26.0
Kochi	—	33.4	26.8	Tiruchi	—	39.1	26.6
Kohima	—	23.1	15.6	Vijayawada	—	37.8	25.0
Kolkata	—	35.3	26.1	Visakhapatnam	—	34.5	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	.88	.25	91	101	
Bengaluru	.6	.33	.34	71	123	
Chennai	.13	.16	.82	27	55	
Delhi	.53	154	.50	215	308	
Hyderabad	.8	.42	.32	78	110	
Kolkata	.10	.22	.18	54	53	
Lucknow	.7	.38	.22	143	232	
Mumbai	.6	.47	.2	48	91	
Pune	.51	.13	111	281	—	
Visakhapatnam	.9	.30	.15	21	34	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 298 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ambulance driver found guilty of rape

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The Principal Sessions Court in Kerala's Pathanamthitta on Thursday found Noufal of Kayamkulam guilty of raping a 19-year-old COVID-19 patient inside an ambulance. The quantum of sentence will be pronounced later.

The incident took place in September 2020 when the young woman was being transported to a COVID-19 care centre.

Noufal, who was assigned as the ambulance driver, deviated from the designated route and drove to a secluded area, where he sexually assaulted the patient.

The case had sparked widespread public outrage, particularly over an alleged violation of protocol by the District Medical Office in sending a female patient unaccompanied in the ambulance.

BRS submits report on tree-felling row

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A delegation of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Thursday submitted a representation to the Central Empowered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court regarding the "illegal deforestation and violations" at the 400 acres of Kancha Gachibowli land.

Speaking to newspersons later, BRS MLA T. Harish Rao alleged that the government was violating all guidelines regarding the land. They said that the BRS had submitted a 11-page representation with 200 pages of evidence.

Meanwhile, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee criticised the BRS and asked how a luxurious apartment belonging to My Home group, abutting the Kancha Gachibowli land, got permissions and environmental clearances during the BRS regime.

SRI PADMAVATI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM
(Women's University), TIRUPATI-517 502, A.P., India.

R.O.C.No. SPMVV/UGC//F1/PM-USHA/2025. dated: 09-04-2025 **TENDER NOTICE**

e-tenders are invited through the e-procurement from the reputed manufacturers/suppliers/firms for the supply and installation of Research and Scientific Equipment under PM USHA project at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam. The Equipment information regarding detailed specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained from website **www.spmvv.ac.in** or **https://tender.apeprocurement.govt.in.**

Sd/-Registrar

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION

E - TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/07/2025 Dated:07.04.2025

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad for and on behalf of the President of india invites E-TENDERS for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of the works and details
1	Brightening of station buildings and service buildings, etc in Senior Section Engineer / Works / Shoranur jurisdiction; Approximate Cash value ₹ (in lakhs): 69.75; Bid Security Amount : ₹ 1,39,500/-; Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs: 29.04.2025; Completion Period in Months: Six
2	Palakkad - Deweeding and maintaining Railway colony, statons and Divisional office premises free of unwanted vegetations, bushes, small trees of girth less than 30 cm for a period of one year; Approximate Cash value ₹ (in lakhs): 24.84; Bid Security Amount : ₹ 49,700/-; Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs: 29.04.2025; Completion Period in Months: Twelve
3	Senior Divisional Engineer / West / Palakkad jurisdiction - Construction of additional Foot Over Bridge at Kanhangad (KZE) NSG 4 station; Approximate Cash value ₹ (in lakhs): 438.95; Bid Security Amount : ₹ 3,69,500/-; Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs: 07.05.2025; Completion Period in Months: Twelve
4	Senior Divisional Engineer / West Jurisdiction - Proposed construction of Ballast Retaining wall at bridge approaches; Approximate Cash value ₹ (in lakhs): 165.81; Bid Security Amount : ₹ 2,32,900/-; Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs: 29.04.2025; Completion Period in Months: Six
5	Palakkad Division: Improvements to ballast depot for augmentation of depot capacity and increasing the CSL of siding by extending existing ballast siding to 250 mtrs at Madukkarai depot; Approximate Cash value ₹ (in lakhs): 209.44; Bid Security Amount : ₹ 2,54,700/-; Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs: 07.05.2025; Completion Period in Months: Ten

1. All the contracts on Works / goods / services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors / Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.07.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **https://www.ireps.gov.in.**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Palakkad

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK **EOI No. 224/2025** kerala EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Expression of Interest are invited for
"Construction & Operation of an IT Building (Pre-Fab) in Technopark Phase 1 Campus for Managed Office Space and Co-Working Space".
The last date of submission of EOI is **14.05.2025.**
For further details, please visit
https://www.technopark.org/tenders

Date: 09.04.2025 **Chief Executive Officer,**
Trivandrum **D3/313/2025** **Technopark**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-44
Dated: 04.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 110kv / 25kv additional Traction Transformers at Hubballi Traction Sub Station.	Rs. 1,37,10,110.44

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 02.05.2025

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ Hubballi

PUB/21/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-45
Dated: 04.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification for running DSDC Trains in Hubballi Division.	Rs. 50,39,475/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28.04.2025

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/Hubballi

PUB/22/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works.

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Maintenance Period
08-2025-SrDENC	Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT) of FB welded joints Executed by mobile FB plants at site using RDSO verified PAUT weld tester under ADEN/PVR & ADEN/LUR sub division for the period of one year.	Rs. 4,48,05,992.40	Rs. 3,74,000.00	12 Months	NIL
Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website.		08.05.2025 upto 15:00 hrs			
Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in		08.05.2025 at 15:30 hrs			

The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur

SUN 67 अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works.

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Maintenance Period
07-2025-SrDENC	Rendering of services for working with USFD open line team under SSE/P.Way/USFD/SUR for a period of Two Years	Rs. 4,16,83,931.50	Rs. 3,58,400.00	24 Months	NIL
Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website.		05.05.2025 upto 15:00 hrs			
Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in		05.05.2025 at 15:30 hrs			

The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur

SUN 66 अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

In the age of age-tech

With social structures changing and families shrinking, many senior citizens are nagged by questions on how to productively use the silver years without feeling isolated or burdening others. **Shilpa Elizabeth** looks at age-tech, a new and emerging sector that harnesses technology to seek some answers

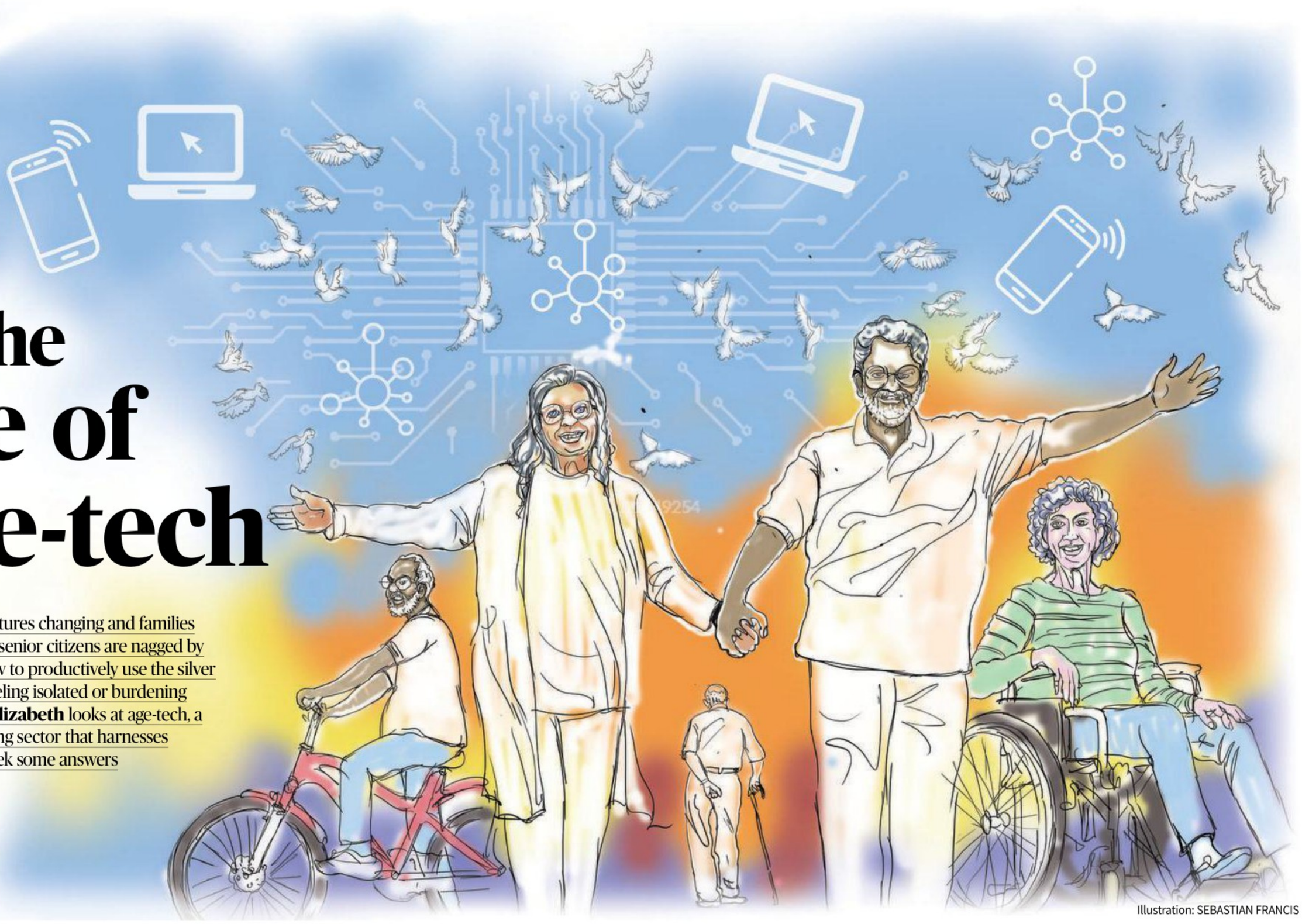


Illustration: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Raghavendra (name changed), 73, is part of around six WhatsApp groups for the elderly. An electrical engineer who spent more than 30 years in Mumbai, he moved to Bengaluru post-retirement to live with his daughter. In a city of 1.4 crore people, the septuagenarian was starting to feel lonely given his daughter's busy work schedule and his wife's demise eight years ago. Then, he found his tribe online.

"They get me a cake for Christmas. I get Tirupati laddus for them. We are all now planning a trip together to Vietnam," says a very cheerful Raghavendra, during a meetup held by Sukoon Unlimited, a city-based start-up building a community for seniors.

New research area

Research on longevity has been receiving unprecedented attention across the world. In 2024, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced the launch of the Longevity India Initiative, a project focused on efforts to extend human 'health span' and combat ageing-related challenges. Maverick millionaires like Bryan Johnson have even been attempting anti-ageing experiments.

But the elderly in India have been at an interesting, or rather puzzling, cross-section. With social structures changing and families shrinking to nuclear, how to productively use the silver years without feeling isolated and not burdening others has been a question troubling many lately.

Age-tech, a new and emerging sector, hopes to answer this question with the help of technology and ease the problems of people like Raghavendra.

Age-tech start-ups

Neeraj Sagar, founder of Wisdom Circle, started an online group of age-tech founders in India about two years ago. The group had its first offline meetup last year in Bengaluru where almost 40 founders showed up.

"In a year that number has become 100," says Sagar.

According to estimates, India currently has about 15 crore senior citizens (people above 60 years), a number which is expected to more than double to 32 crore by 2050. A changing demography means the average age going up and the market needs shifting, prodding entrepreneurs to be early movers in the space. From physical health to emotional well-being to cognitive skills to the employability of seniors, age-tech start-ups attempt to address a spectrum of challenges faced by seniors.

Eliminating loneliness

In 2022, WHO revealed that 1 in 4 older people experience social isolation, seriously impacting their health and longevity, with effects on mortality comparable to smoking, and obesity.

Vibha Singal, founder of Sukoon Unlimited, points out that people with ageing parents often give importance to the latter's physical health and financial and logistical needs, but are not always in a position to help them with their emotional wellbeing.

> When somebody in your family reports having memory issues, you just brush it off as something normal with ageing. But ways to assess if it is normal ageing or accelerated ageing is still not prevalent in India.
>
> **ISSAC JOHN**
> Co-founder of cognitive health start-up Ivory

"When a person is 60, their kids are between the age of 30 and 40 trying to build their own families and careers."

There is also a growing segment of elders who are financially independent and prefer being on their own rather than moving in with their children or uprooting their lives to a different place, Singal notes.

"We see if we can help the parents beat loneliness so that they age slower. Finding purpose and community are the fulcrums to beating loneliness. That's what Sukoon is out to do."

Started in 2024, Sukoon, according to Singal, is India's first platform for seniors by seniors offering services such as emotional support, counselling, group therapies, volunteering opportunities, and concierge services.

Both the service providers and service takers are people above 50 years old. "When a service provider is a senior citizen, it gives them purpose. And if the service taker is a senior citizen, there is a sense of community," Singal notes.

From 200 members in the first month, the community has grown to 6,000 users spread across 400 cities and towns in a year with the average age between 58 and 68. Around 60% of the users are men and 40% women. Some of the most discussed concerns include children's reluctance to marry, and loss of spouse.

The company has also invested in a proprietary AI tool which can respond in more than 100 languages. Singhal notes that more than 65% of the community members talk to it. There have been instances of users talking to it like a friend, naming it and even spending hours with it.

Fifty-nine-year-old Miranda (name changed), a finance professional at a corporate firm, dialled a *Sarathi* at Sukoon when she couldn't come to terms with the thought of retiring in a year.

"The thought of being without a job made me feel purposeless," she says.

Employment opportunities

Miranda's concerns are shared by many. Neeraj Sagar of Wisdom Circle notes that not only is there a significant population who prefer to work even after retiring from their permanent roles, but also quite a few companies who are looking to tap into the experience of the elderly.

Wisdom Circle, which helps retired professionals find employment opportunities, has been around for three years now. Around 95,000 people and 1,500 companies have registered on the platform which has listed about 2,500 roles.

According to Sagar, the demand mostly comes from small and medium businesses and start-ups who are looking to hire specialists for a few days of the week. As far as the elders are concerned, he says, there is a lot more openness to hybrid roles.

But what motivates people to continue working post-retirement? Is it the money or is it something more?

"Money is important to everyone, not always to meet the financial ends, but to feel valued," says Sagar.

It's often a bid to continue to feel respected and relevant, backed by the impulse to impart the skills they have acquired over a lifetime and give back to society.

"What we are observing is that people who are worth way more are applying for roles that are not paying them as much. So, staying relevant takes priority over getting paid highly. We are also seeing a lot of people apply to nonprofit roles which pay lesser."

Keeping the brain sharp

In 2023, a study by Jinkook Lee and others showed that more than 80 lakh Indians suffer from dementia. As the Indian population looks at an increased lifespan and the elderly population is estimated to be 20% of the total population by 2050, the burden of neurodegenerative diseases is also high.

"Typically, when somebody in your family reports having memory issues, you just brush it off as something normal with ageing," points out Issac John, cofounder of cognitive health start-up Ivory. "But ways to assess if it is normal ageing or accelerated ageing is still not prevalent in India."

Co-founded by John and Rahul Krishnan, Ivory offers neuroscience-backed assessments that claim to help keep the brain sharp and identify neurodegenerative risks early. The duo who up-close witnessed close relatives suffering from neurodegenerative diseases wanted to build a differentiated product for the segment aged above 45 years.

The users first take a simple assessment which tells them their cognitive age. People who are found at risk are suggested to take up a clinical grade assessment.

"We work very closely with the medium and high-risk customers, get them to do a health and lifestyle profiling and recommend things that they need to change in their life, along with a personalized cognitive brain training session available for them on the app," John explains.

The app currently has about 30,000 users with two-third of them females and 60% from tier-1 cities.

Easy on the knees

When it comes to physical health, orthopaedics forms a crucial need for the elderly. Statistics show that around 50% of the senior population need assistance with basic tasks like sit-to-stand.

"In the larger scheme of things, the inability to carry out this function by yourself has two implications. Apart from the physical exhaustion and the strain, there is the risk that if you do not perform it safely, you could either fall into or out of the chair and end up injuring yourself," notes Sanchit Jhunjhunwala, co-founder at Translead Medtech, a deep-tech spin-off from IISc, Bengaluru.

"This also leads to a hesitation to participate socially, culturally and economically. Even at home, you may stop yourself from drinking another glass of water because you will need to stand up, go to the washroom, sit down, stand up again, come back and sit down."

The start-up has designed an assistive chair which offers support while performing the actions of sitting down and standing up, without any electrical power or sensors. The chair seat gently pushes the user while trying to stand up. While sitting down, the sharp rise of the seat drops slowly.

"There has been a 2.5-fold growth in the number of knee replacements done in the last five years. And you're looking at upwards of 5 lakh such surgeries happening," Jhunjhunwala puts it in perspective.

He notes that UNSDG recommendations talk about reserving 5% of seating in public space for accessibility.

"You need to make these elements functional as well. That's where we come in. We are looking at a need of 25 million such assisted chairs in public spaces and 8 million in homes, offices, and so on."

The start-up, which is getting ready to begin its shipments in June, has also an assistive commode for the elderly in the pipeline.

Tech that alienates

While developments in technology to assist older people are welcomed, one concern among experts is that, at times, the real needs of the elderly take a backseat to the fascination with technology and its potential.

Arvind Kasthuri, head of the geriatric unit at St John's Medical College, Bengaluru, recollects his experience of working with a group which was developing wearables for older people years ago and how the team was more focused on what the devices could do rather than what the user wanted or what was feasible.

"Many of them are so kicked with the technology that they cannot resist the temptation," he warns.

"They have to mesh their technologies into the real world of healthcare and see how the patient flows are. Looking at technologies from a patient flow point of view, and then trying to plug those gaps is better than working at it from the technology end and seeing what all those technologies can actually achieve."

Pretesh Kiran, Associate Professor at the Department of Community Health, St John's Medical College, adds that there is a clear urban-rural divide when it comes to age-tech. He also points out that a large number of seniors find it a challenge to adapt to new technologies.

Keeping pace is hard

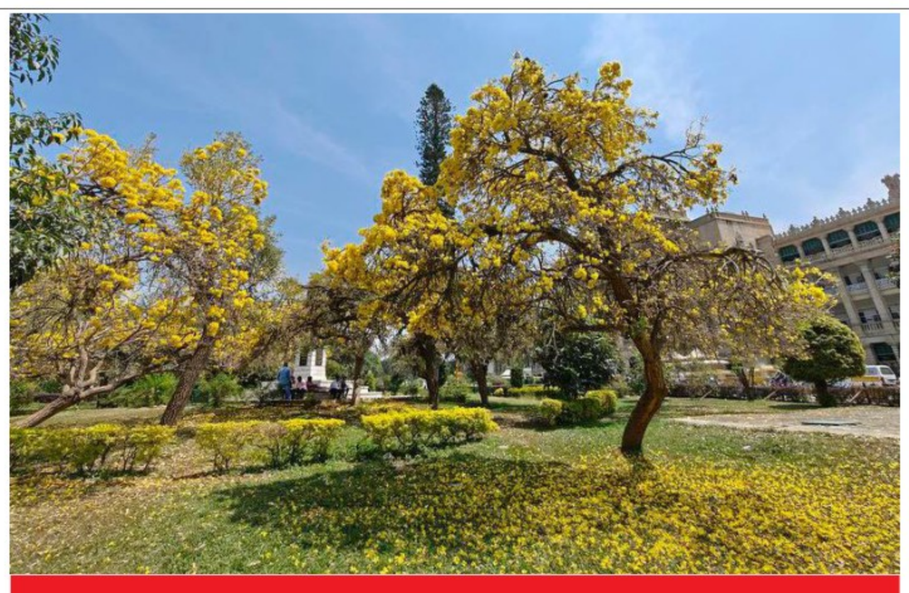
"Digitisation is great news. But it is also happening at a very rapid pace, excluding key demography in our country, which is our elders," says Bilal Zaidi, founder of Elderra, which helps seniors learn digital tools.

Zaidi recollects how calls from his elderly parents seeking help to book autorickshaws or groceries via apps increased over the last few years. Hailing autos down the road became almost impossible for them, and the *kirana* store that used to deliver the groceries to them shut shop in the onslaught of quick commerce.

"The other challenge is, in the absence of an understanding of technology, the elderly population is very vulnerable to scams," adds Zaidi.

Govt. should join in

The tech divide becomes even more stark in rural areas. On top of it, age-tech's focus on financially independent seniors living in cities makes the services unaffordable for the larger elderly population. The government and larger corporates should join hands with the startups to make the services accessible for a larger populace, suggests Susan Barton, an eldercare specialist in Bengaluru.



Floral carpet Tabebuia flowers in bloom in Bengaluru. MURALI KUMAR K

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

The city is abloom with the pale pink petals of the *Tabebuia rosea* and warm hues of *Tabebuia argentea*

Poetry in petals

Raghav HS

In the heart of our bustling city, the Tabebuia rosea, commonly known as the pink poui or pink trumpet tree, stands as a vibrant symbol of Nature's resilience.

Originally native to Central America, this striking tree has adapted remarkably well to urban environments, proving to be a valuable asset in the city's green arsenal, with its ability to thrive amidst pollution and limited space.

A deciduous tree, the *Tabebuia rosea* sheds its leaves before spectacularly blooming, creating a dramatic transformation from a bare silhouette to a floral spectacle. The soft, pastel pink flowers beautifully contrast with its deep green foliage, and during flowering season – peaking in late spring and early summer – the ground beneath becomes a picturesque carpet of fallen petals.

Sadly, the fleeting blooms last only a few weeks, and serve as a poignant reminder of Nature's ephemeral beauty.

"People have started introducing plants from across the world," says M Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture at Lalbagh. "While the Tabebuia rosea is native to Africa, it has been introduced to India, with other varieties, such as the *Tabebuia argentea* which bears yellow flowers, and the *Tabebuia pallida* which features light pink blooms. There are more than seven or eight different types of Tabebuia, and planting these in urban areas has become a source of fascination for people," he says, adding that it boosts the supply of oxygen in the area.

However, it is important to note that these tropical trees struggle to survive in temperate climates where temperatures may plummet to zero or below, resulting in their limited presence in harsher regions.

Beyond its visual allure, the *Tabebuia rosea* plays a crucial role in the ecosystem.

However, David Kumar, CEO, Vibhinna India Foundation, notes, "Tabebuia rosea does not harbor many insects, although some solitary bees are attracted to it." These bees play a crucial role in pollination, helping sustain the plant's reproductive cycle.

There are claims on the potential medicinal uses of *Tabebuia rosea*. "While it has been suggested that *Tabebuia rosea* may offer benefits for conditions such as anemia, constipation, and even cancer in places like the United States and tribal Brazil, its high toxicity raises significant safety concerns," explains Dr KR Keshava Murthy, Honorary Chief Botanist at Lalbagh.

He adds that this toxicity complicates efforts to validate its medicinal effectiveness, particularly in traditional systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha, where its use is not well-documented.

The arrival of the *Tabebuia rosea*'s blooms is a much-anticipated event, offering a vibrant visual feast, a temporary escape from the monotonous expanse of concrete and asphalt.

Listen to the trees whisper

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

While most artists have a signature style, they also evolve and grow in their manner of expression. Well, patrons of artist Siddharth Shingade will be glad to see his prowess unfold in his latest exhibition, Ephemeral Homelands, currently on display in the city.

In the two years since his last solo show in Bengaluru, Siddharth still enamoured by the rustic beauty of village life, has attempted to capture its details in a series of brilliantly-hued miniatures. Known for his big, bold canvases crafted around earth tones, the miniatures come as more than a pleasant surprise.

"I drew these from memory, following a visit to the village, where I've always found life to be rich in detail," says Siddharth, and this fascination reveals itself in the traditional nose ring, detailing on door panels, bullock carts and mortars.

"The lady is a figure of prime importance in my work and are featured either through their figures, faces or form. In some of my works, I have purposely not given them lips to show suppression and lack of freedom."

Rural tones Art by Siddharth Shingade. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Another highlight of the show, is the presence of a colourful turtle sporting vivid scenes on its shell. Crafted out of fibreglass and acrylic, the piece titled Worship, is undoubtedly an eyecatcher.

"I recently executed a series in Hyderabad themed around the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean) incident. Its scenes were still fresh in my mind and that is how this creation came about," says Siddharth.

Ephemeral Homeland by Siddharth Shingade will be on display at KYNKYNY till April 18. Sunday closed. Entry free.

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Now, justice

Rana's extradition allows Indian prosecutors to probe his Pakistan links

Seventeen years after the Mumbai 26/11 terror attacks, India is preparing for the trial of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was extradited by the United States this week. The extradition of a co-conspirator in the planning of the attacks that left 166 people dead is proof of the success of India's counter-terror diplomacy with the U.S., and the tenacity of Indian investigators. Mr. Rana was first arrested by the U.S. in 2009, as an accomplice of David Headley, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative tasked by Pakistan to carry out the reconnaissance for targets in Mumbai by LeT terrorists, as well as for being a part of a plan to attack a newspaper office in Copenhagen. As Mr. Headley's childhood friend and colleague, Mr. Rana, a Canadian-American citizen and a former Pakistan military doctor, helped plan the attacks and facilitate his multiple entries to India, including once after the attacks, according to U.S. prosecutors. While Mr. Rana was not convicted for the Mumbai attacks in the U.S. trial, he was convicted for his LeT terror links and involvement in the Copenhagen conspiracy, and spent some part of a 14-year sentence in U.S. prisons. His extradition will allow Indian prosecutors to put on trial one of the men chargesheeted in absentia for the 26/11 attacks; to extract more information on his Pakistan links; and to further the cause of justice after the dastardly attacks that brought the nation to a standstill. Ajmal Kasab, the only one of the 10 LeT gunmen caught alive, was convicted and hanged in 2012.

The prosecutors of the National Investigation Agency, who have followed the 26/11 trail since 2009, will now need to conduct a similar and unimpeachable time-bound trial. The government would also need to investigate certain unanswered questions: including whether Mr. Rana continued to have provable links with the Pakistani military; whether there is more evidence on the extent of Pakistan's official complicity, and why the U.S. chose to enter into a plea bargain with Mr. Headley, giving him immunity from extradition despite a treaty with India. When compared to Mr. Rana, he was clearly the more provably diabolical and culpable agent for the conspiracy. It is also curious that the U.S., that had been tracking Mr. Headley even before the 26/11 attacks, did not alert Indian authorities of his return to India for another reconnaissance operation in early 2009. It is hoped that Mr. Rana's trial will turn the spotlight back on Pakistan, and generate enough pressure on it to cooperate in the prosecution of seven LeT terror commanders, including Hafiz Saeed who planned, trained and equipped the terrorists for the attacks. To that end, Mr. Rana's extradition is a significant step in the quest for justice and closure for the victims of the 26/11 attacks and their families.

A cut in time

Countries must build on their economic strengths, not create trade barriers

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee's unanimous decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points, to 6%, is a timely reprieve for India's business community. For weeks now, exporting sectors have been imploring the government to hasten bilateral trade negotiations with the U.S. to attempt to shield themselves from President Donald Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs. The tariffs have been paused for 90 days, except for the 10% universal tariff, which is still applicable. The pause, even while raising tariffs against China to 125% in a trade stand-off with Beijing, suggests a strategy pivot to stem the massive sell-off of U.S. treasury bonds and the gutting of trillions of dollars in American stock valuations. Worried about an economic slowdown as investor sentiment turns negative, the RBI has changed its stance from "neutral" to "accommodative" that could indicate further rate cuts are likely. A decrease in the repo rate will most likely be reflected in loan service reductions for businesses, homeowners and retail borrowers, as banks pass on the rate cut. This began happening hours after the rate cut announcement. The central bank hopes this rate reduction ensures liquidity for businesses in a time of uncertainty, so that they can continue investing in the real economy even as they attempt to diversify their exports.

More ominous, however, is the RBI's lowered GDP growth estimates for the current fiscal, from 6.7% to 6.5%. This indicates that despite the RBI's growth stimulus, steadily declining retail inflation – down to 3.61% in February – and steep falls in food staple prices, the central bank expects a growth contraction due to the uncertain economic climate. It is a universally accepted economic principle that stable governance, along with a predictable policy framework, is a necessary condition to foster growth. It would be no exaggeration to say that this principle has been turned on its head since Mr. Trump's return as President. China's move to impose retaliatory tariffs, totalling 84%, signals the beginning of a full-blown trade war, the likes of which the world has not witnessed since the Smoot-Hawley Act of 1930. Those tariffs, with objectives similar to the current ones – to protect American farming and manufacturing – ushered in an era of economic nationalism in the inter-war years, hitting global trade and contributing significantly to the Great Depression. Perhaps a lesson for nations must be that protecting one's own economy can be achieved without hurting others, so long as countries recognise their competitive advantages and build on them. In America's case, it is doubling down on research, education and innovation.

The issue with delimitation's population-based process

Ashok Lavasa

is a former Election Commissioner and Union Finance Secretary of India

Delimitation, enshrined in Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution of India, has stirred unprecedented passions that have taken shape in both serious and ludicrous ways. The serious ones stem from what the Constitution provides and its possible implications if implemented as provided. The ludicrous ones include calls by some who are asking people to 'multiply' rapidly to deal with the fear of being outnumbered.

As passions run high, there is a need to look at the issues dispassionately. Ironically, those who had hitherto accused the government of flouting constitutional principles, now want that the government does not act in accordance with the Constitution. Are the 'protectors of the Constitution' chasing their tail in asking for the 'freezing' or 'postponing' the delimitation exercise for sound reasons?

The Constitution provides that "upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted". A similar provision exists for the Vidhan Sabhas. Through the 42nd and subsequent amendments, this 'readjustment' was deferred till 2026. The Census after that will be the basis of any future delimitation, which has also caused much apprehension in the southern States. There is little evidence to justify their apprehensions but there is no reason to dismiss their fear.

There is heated debate, justifiably so, on the principle of population proportionality and federalism and whether any principle enshrined in the Constitution should be used to undermine the other. It is clear that a mathematical approach to delimitation and allocation of seats based on population alone will benefit States where population growth has been faster than the rest.

Data from the past and trends

The data published by the Election Commission of India show that in the first general election in 1951-52 there were 489 Lok Sabha seats; 494 in 1957, and 520 in 1967 (as per the Delimitation Commission's Report of March 21, 1963 based on the 1961 Census). Thirty-one seats were added and five reduced from the previous election. Andhra Pradesh went down from 43 to 41, Madras, 41 to 39, and Uttar Pradesh, 86 to 85. Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Mysore, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh made gains. Besides, seats were added in new States such as Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

In the 1971 Lok Sabha election, two seats were reduced in Himachal Pradesh bringing the total to 518. In the 1977 election, 24 seats were added, taking the number to 542. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka (erstwhile Mysore), Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Haryana made gains, and new States such as Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Mizoram got additional seats. Daman and Diu was allotted a separate seat much later to take the total to 543 – which is the current strength of the Lok Sabha based on the 1971 Census.

> The focus needs to shift to what it means to 'represent' a constituency and steps such as strengthening the third tier of elected bodies

What needs to be considered

An analysis of these trends suggests that any debate on delimitation must consider three issues: the principle of population as the basis of allocation of seats; the impact of public policy on the population criterion, and the 'representative' hue of those who are elected.

The increase in the number of seats between 1951 and 2004, determined by the Delimitation Commissions, contains no formula for the ideal population that a Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabhas member should represent. If the population is divided by the number of Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabhas seats, the average goes up from 7.32 lakh per seat in 1951 to about 8.70 lakh in 1967, and 10.10 lakh in 1977. In 2024, this is about 27 lakh per Lok Sabha seat. Similarly, the number of Vidhan Sabha seats have increased from 3,283 in 1951-52 to 4,123 in 2024, tripling the average population that a Vidhan Sabhas member represents. Going by the nearly 98 crore electors in the 2024 general election election, each Member of Parliament on an average represented about 18 lakh electors; Lakshadweep had 57,760 electors and Malkajgiri 29.5 lakh.

This shows that while population was chosen as the primary principle of representation, it has not been followed without accommodating other concerns such as geographical contiguity and political boundaries. The Census-based population criterion was the only basis that had no qualifications attached, unlike in the past where voting rights were based on religion and educational background. It was the simplest criterion to ensure universal franchise and one vote, one value. Is the criterion so sacred that it does not permit any adjustment based on current circumstances to avoid fissures in our polity, creating distortions in the representative federal character of the Parliament, and the feeling of regional injustice? After all, the Finance Commission, set up every five years, keeps modifying its criteria for financial allocation and devolution based on changing reality, regional aspirations and national priorities.

The question that also needs to be debated is this: "what does it mean to 'represent' a constituency"? The Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabhas are essentially law-making bodies and the representative weight of the elected person does not change because of the number of people in the constituency. Also, the constituency size does not influence the other functions that elected representatives perform – namely asking questions or being a part of various House committees. There are no surveys to show that a smaller constituency is better represented than a larger one. For example, let us evaluate how the people of the tenth parliament constituency created in Haryana in 1977, or the Daman and Diu constituency benefited because of having a Member of Parliament represent them in the Lok Sabha? Or whether in Haryana, Narnaul Assembly segment with 1.6 lakh voters is better served by its elected representative than Badshahpur with 5.2 lakh electors. In the first-past-the-post system, numerical strength of the constituency is immaterial to 'representativeness'. Moreover, how many times do citizens need the Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha representative to deal with day-to-day problems? Strengthening the third tier of elected bodies may be more meaningful for democracy, and devolution of authority to local bodies, a more effective measure of improving governance than clamouring for more seats adhering to the 'fetish' of population-based representation in elected Houses.

A primary criterion that needs moderation

The importance of population as the primary criterion needs moderation because the population control policy was promoted by the central government. There may not be another parallel policy, the outcome of which is used to the detriment of the performer. Perhaps, there is a need to use a deflator that can moderate the benefit that States might derive on account of higher population. As real GDP growth is determined by adjusting nominal growth for inflation, we need to think of a divisor that will neutralise the unintended gain due to population growth. For example, if we calculate the number of seats that the Lok Sabha should have on the basis of the 10.10 lakh average for the 1977 election of 543 seats, we might get about 1,440 seats as per the estimated population of 2024. But if this number is divided by the national total fertility rate (TFR, the single significant factor that is proportional to population growth) for 2024, this might reduce to about 680 seats. Since State-level TFR data is available, this can be applied to every State for moderating its population growth figures. Experts may suggest a more sophisticated formula.

A Parliament that can debate constitutional amendments aimed merely to achieve managerial efficiency in conducting elections, can certainly debate ways in which the structural political imbalance inherent in the population-based delimitation of constituencies can be managed.

Drop the piecemeal ways to social security for workers

Renjini Rajagopalan

is a lawyer and Research Lead at the Centre for Gender Analysis, JustJobs Network (JJN)

India's efforts to establish social security for online (app-based) gig workers are gaining momentum, with the central scheme awaiting Cabinet approval. Benefits announced include health coverage under Ayushman Bharat, registration on the eShram portal for access to various social security schemes, and a transaction-based pension policy, where a universal account number assigned to each gig worker helps track their earnings across platforms for deductions and company contributions. This pension scheme is particularly notable because, in a way, it acknowledges that gig workers (operating outside traditional employee-employer relationships) can have multiple employers, and ensures that each contributes, albeit in a limited capacity, towards worker welfare. In a country where social security is typically tethered to formal employment and informal workers are excluded or otherwise disadvantaged, this is clearly a step forward.

However, this progress highlights the reactive nature of current social protection systems which tend to respond only when new worker categories emerge. This underscores the need for India to proactively reimagine its social security framework to address these evolving challenges.

The flaws in the existing system

Despite being a founding member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), India is yet to ratify the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the ILO's Convention aimed at establishing basic social security principles. India's Code on Social Security (Code), one of its four new Labour Codes, enacted nearly 70 years after the 102 Convention, intends to provide a comprehensive framework for social protection. But it has faced significant criticism for its ambiguous definitions, watered down protections, and on-going implementation challenges.

> As India strives to make its workforce 'future ready', robust social protection systems that can withstand workforce and sectoral changes need to be in place

One of the Code's most prominent features is its insistence on relying on welfare boards for the distribution of social welfare – a process that has long been found falling short of its intended goals. For instance, a recent Right To Information petition showed that Welfare Boards for Building and Other Construction Workers of various States were yet to use ₹70,744.16 crore worth of cess they had collected from employers for the welfare of workers. In another instance, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) 2024 report found that 99 local bodies in 10 districts had delayed remittance payments to the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board (TNCWWB), amounting to ₹221.8 crore. Even in Kerala, with its strong thrust on worker welfare, only five out of its 16 boards were found to function effectively, with some boards (as per 2016-17 data) not reporting any beneficiaries at all. This has led to repeated calls from activists and advocacy groups for improvements in the management and the functioning of welfare boards.

The problem with incremental approaches

One of the main arguments in favour of India's fragmented, welfare-board run social welfare systems is its ability to provide targeted relief to segments of workers in need – for example, beedi and cigarette workers of Karnataka have sought the revival of a defunct welfare fund to deal with their welfare woes. Today it is the gig worker; but new worker categories are bound to emerge with advancements in technology or other forces of disruption.

So, relying on a piecemeal approach – as opposed to a combination of universal social protection and targeted support – can fail to account for the precarious nature of all informal work. Such an approach could also create artificial distinctions between different types of informal work such as between gig work and domestic work, and in turn impose arbitrary thresholds on who is deserving of social protection, and who is not.

It is also risky to assume that focusing on just one worker segment will automatically solve the challenge of formalising informal labour. Because right now, there is understandably growing excitement about how gig work will employ more people in the future. But banking on it as a solution to formalising informal labour is overly optimistic.

Towards universal social protection systems

As India strives to make its workforce 'future ready', it is crucial to create robust social protection systems that can withstand workforce and sectoral changes. Which raises the key question: what is the most realistic way forward? The Code, despite its implementation logjam, looks here to stay. And while it leaves the bulk of the oversight to the Centre, it allows States some flexibility to enact social security measures within its framework.

A sensible starting point might be to treat the Code's mandates as the bare minimum, and use these as a foundation to build stronger, more inclusive, accessible and ultimately, universal social protection systems that leave no worker behind.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump and tariffs

The U.S.'s move to single out China by slapping an unprecedented 125% tariff on it while pausing tariffs for most other countries shows that the escalations begun by the U.S. are fuelled by political motives. It seems to be part of a broader American strategy to contain China on the global stage. Tariffs meant to be used for trade diplomacy have been turned into a political weapon by Mr. Trump. The U.S. President should stop jeopardising global trade to exert his might against China in order to fulfil his agenda. Given the scale of global trade that is being impacted, it will only end in a no-win situation for all.

I. Imran Ahamed,
Chennai

It is very apparent now that what was expected to be an unprecedented trade war between the U.S. and the world has now become a showdown between the U.S. and China. Mr. Trump's decision to pause the tariffs can be attributed to a drastic sell-off in American bonds linked to waning confidence in the U.S. economy and bond holders. With stock markets across the world now examining the short-term relief of the tariff pause against continued uncertainty in U.S.-China trade tensions, there will be more volatility in the stock markets in the days ahead.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Extradition and justice

The extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana from the United States marks a significant moment in India's pursuit of justice for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. This case should also serve as a reminder of the need for continuous global collaboration against terrorism and the importance of bringing every perpetrator to account, no matter how many years have passed. Let us hope that the extradition also reinforces our collective resolve to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Rukma Sharma,
Jalandhar, Punjab

Save a life

When a person sustains serious injuries after meeting with an accident and a crowd gathers without helping him, the scene is not only heart-wrenching but also raises questions about our system. The Supreme Court took a dim view of this, stating that lives are being lost because the government has failed to implement a cashless treatment scheme during the 'Golden Hour', which is the crucial hour after an accident that is critical to saving a life. It is unfortunate that the scheme remains on paper. Hospitals demand money from patients, and delays in treatment cause much loss. The government must enforce this scheme with urgency, hold hospitals accountable, and ensure that no life is lost due to financial constraints or bureaucratic red tape.

R.K. Jain,
Barwani, Madhya Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Are existing mechanisms effective in combating judicial corruption?

Sanjay Hegde

Senior Advocate based in Delhi

Alok Prasanna Kumar

Co-founder of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

PARLEY

Last month, unaccounted cash was reportedly recovered from the official residence of former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma. In response, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna initiated an in-house inquiry into the matter. Justice Varma has since been repatriated to his parent High Court in Allahabad and will not be assigned any judicial work until the Supreme Court-mandated inquiry is completed. Are existing mechanisms effective in combating judicial corruption? Sanjay Hegde and Alok Prasanna Kumar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik**. Edited excerpts:

Is impeachment an effective mechanism for judicial accountability, given its reliance on political consensus?

Sanjay Hegde: Far from being a mechanism for accountability, the process of impeachment is designed to shield judges. Unless a motion garners the support of two-thirds of the members present and voting, as well as an absolute majority in each House of Parliament, the judges cannot be removed. To assume that the threat of impeachment acts as a deterrent is misguided, given how rarely such proceedings succeed. What is needed instead is an internal mechanism within the judiciary to transparently address serious misconduct. Such a system would go a long way in reinforcing public confidence in the institution.

Alok Prasanna Kumar: Impeachment upholds judicial independence by insulating judges from political retaliation. To this end, the process is intentionally rigorous, requiring both a detailed parliamentary procedure and proof of 'misbehaviour or incapacity.' These high thresholds are meant to deter the executive from using impeachment to remove judges who are seen as inconvenient.

We also tend to assume that judicial independence has always existed, but it is a relatively modern concept. Historically, judges served to deliver the monarch's justice, not to check state power or protect individual rights. This began to change with the rise of constitutional democracies.

Are legislative reforms required in the Supreme Court's in-house procedure for addressing judicial misconduct?

SH: The in-house procedure was established to prevent the misuse of legal processes against the judiciary, especially when judicial decisions displease the executive. A key precedent is *Delhi Judicial Service Association v. State of Gujarat* (1991), where the Supreme Court intervened after the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Nadiad was mistreated by Gujarat police officials, and issued guidelines for arresting judicial officers. To guard against misuse, the judiciary introduced an internal inquiry mechanism before allowing prosecution. Nonetheless, this framework could benefit from legislative intervention.

Allahabad High Court lawyers stage an indefinite strike over the transfer of Justice Yashwant Varma to his parent court, in Prayagraj. ANI

APK: Corruption cases are particularly difficult to prosecute in a country like ours, where enforcement institutions are weak, the capacity to secure convictions is limited, and judges enjoy a degree of institutional protection. A striking example is the recent acquittal of former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nirmal Yadav, nearly 15 years after a Supreme Court-mandated inquiry committee found sufficient evidence to prosecute her. That said, I agree with Sanjay that there is certainly scope for strengthening the in-house procedure.

Should inquiry reports under this mechanism be made public?

APK: Yes. We have seen a welcome shift towards transparency in the Supreme Court's handling of the Justice Yashwant Varma case. In an age where judicial conduct is closely scrutinised through social and mass media, opacity in cases of alleged judicial corruption is no longer viable. However, such transparency cannot remain an ad hoc response to crises; it must be institutionalised. At the same time, it is essential that the inquiry process upholds the principles of natural justice and safeguards the rights of the accused. While rigid procedural rules may not be feasible, a balanced framework is necessary – one that commands the confidence of all stakeholders and prevents the inquiry process from becoming the subject of further litigation.

> Transparency must be institutionalised; it cannot remain an ad hoc response to crises. At the same time, it is essential that the inquiry process upholds the principles of natural justice and safeguards the rights of the accused.
> ALOK PRASANNA KUMAR

SH: I agree that increased transparency in the functioning of inquiry committees is welcome. However, in this particular case, the Court's decision appears to have been shaped by the extraordinary level of public speculation. By proactively releasing the video purportedly showing the recovery of unaccounted cash, the Court pre-empted any perception that it was shielding a member of the higher judiciary. Had the footage surfaced through other unofficial channels, it could have severely undermined institutional credibility. That said, such decisions must be made with caution and evaluated on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that the accused's right to a fair trial remains fully protected. The Court could also benefit from appointing dedicated communications personnel to prevent misinformation and bolster public confidence.

The Justice Varma case has renewed calls to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission. Should the government have a say in judicial appointments?

SH: The government already holds a seat at the table. The real question is whether it should wield a blank cheque. Even before the collegium finalises its recommendations, informal consultations with the executive are often undertaken. After the names are forwarded, the government retains the power to flag Intelligence Bureau inputs for the collegium's reconsideration. There have also been several instances where the government has stalled appointments by simply sitting on the recommendations. This de facto executive veto has prevented many deserving judges from reaching the Supreme Court.

APK: We should no longer call it the collegium system; it now resembles a search-and-selection committee. While the High Court and Supreme Court collegium recommend names, the Union government follows a pick-and-choose approach. This has dissuaded many deserving candidates from subjecting themselves to an opaque and often humiliating process. Ultimately, it does not matter whether judges are appointed by the government, the judiciary, or a combination of the two. What matters is transparency. The D.Y. Chandrachud-led collegium made progress on this front by publishing resolutions that detailed the rationale behind each recommendation. Regrettably, the practice has been discontinued.

Should the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010, be reconsidered?

APK: I don't think so. It fails to address several critical gaps. What we need is a more calibrated and institutional response. The first step should be to define clear, enforceable judicial standards. Consider the issue of familial ties in the judiciary – every judge should be mandated to disclose relatives practising in the same court. Once disclosed, either the judge must be transferred or the relative barred from appearing before that court. Merely setting up more oversight bodies is not the solution. These institutions would inevitably be staffed by retired judges, thereby perpetuating the same structural flaws we seek to remedy.

SH: More than legislative reform, we need to focus on the fact that the legal profession already operates through an informal system of peer review. Long before a judge becomes entangled in a corruption scandal, there are usually murmurs within the corridors of the court. A meaningful step forward would be to institutionalise this peer review process by systematically incorporating inputs from bar associations and fellow judges. This would strengthen internal accountability.

Should contempt of court laws be liberalised to permit greater public scrutiny of judicial conduct?

APK: We can liberalise contempt of court laws, but unless there are consequences for judges who invoke them arbitrarily, such reforms will have little impact. It is also important to assess the context in which contempt is initiated – does it stem from a judge's anger or fear, or is it a measured institutional response to someone deliberately spreading falsehoods to undermine public trust in the judiciary? That said, there must be space for good-faith discourse on judicial corruption without the spectre of criminal contempt looming over those who voice legitimate concerns.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

When Parliament stayed awake through the night

Though the night was long, members spoke with a sense of urgency and provided a fair share of drama

Sobhana K. Nair

The recently concluded Budget session of Parliament found its place in history. Both Houses sat through the night, closing only before sunrise, when parts of Delhi were just beginning to stir. The productivity of the Lok Sabha was 118% and that of the Rajya Sabha was 119% – numbers that certainly made the presiding officers happy.

This was a rare and significant occasion, but it does not fall into the category of 'first-ever since Independence' – a phrase we hear about nearly every event post-2014. For me, though, it was the first as a parliamentary reporter. At 8:30 p.m., the Chair informed the Rajya Sabha that there were still 22 members scheduled to speak. I prepared myself for a long night.

I imagined that such interminable sittings would get dreary. But to my surprise, each member spoke with a sense of urgency. With an eye on the clock, they hastily ran through their points, pleading with the Chair after the last bell for a few more minutes for their final flourish. Often, the closing argument that they hope will stun their colleagues, catapults them to the news pages and becomes viral on social media. However, there are more misses than hits.

I was worried about the looming print deadline. I began receiving frantic messages from the desk demanding the copy. Much like parliamentarians, reporters too have a fine dance to do. While we would like to keep listening to speeches in the fear that we may otherwise miss out important details, we are also keen to send our copy so that it actually makes it to the morning paper. The danger of hearing the same arguments over and over again, especially at night, is to tune out and then miss crucial nuances – the greys between the black and white.

Once the minor trouble of filing the day's copy was over, I settled down to relish the debates. My exhaustion and anxiety melted away. With thundering monologues, veiled insults, verbal volleys, amusing fumbles, and curious mix-ups, parliamentary debates provide riveting drama. Where else can one see an actor-turned-politician shivering with anger, gesticulating violently but unable to speak a coherent sentence? I wondered if the lack of a written script tripped up the poor thespian. Fifty minutes past midnight, a woman member, who had launched into an impassioned argument in favour of the Wafq Bill, invoked Victor Hugo. She qualified Hugo as a British author. The Waqf Bill has a prospective clause, but the debate on it retrospectively turned a French senator and author into a British citizen. And just when everyone thought there was some light at the end of the tunnel, a Minister who only talks in rhymes rose to speak. Then came the clause by clause passing of the Bill. To pass a clause, the Chair says, "Those in favour may say 'aye' and those against may say 'no'". Between "the ayes have it" and "the noes have it", and the Bill finally getting passed only at around 2:30 a.m., I had surely had it.

Don't get me wrong: it is a privilege to hear parliamentary debates. It is a privilege hard-earned by our predecessors. The parliamentary debates at Westminster, which we so closely mimic, were not public until the late 19th century. It was only in 1840 that the Parliamentary Papers Act permitted newspapers to publish debates as long as they did not do so "with an evil intent". It was only from 1909 that newspapers which, until then had summarised the debate, were allowed to report them in full. All other limitations were lifted only in 1970 in the House of Commons. In India, in letter, the press has full access to Parliament, but there are several physical barriers to keep us away. There are red lines marked out on the sparkling floors of the new Parliament, which reporters are told not to cross. But we will keep coming back, jumping over the hurdles, to hear debates during the day and at night.

sobhanak.nair@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK | A Tamil tradition

Farmers participate in a rekla race at Mangarai, on the outskirts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. PERIASAMY M.

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 11, 1975

Ford denies secret U.S. deals with Saigon

Washington, April 19: President Ford yesterday told Congressional leaders that the United States was not bound by any secret deals with South Vietnam covering violations by North Vietnam of the Paris ceasefire agreements. The interim Republican Leader in the House of Representatives, Mr. John B. Anderson, said most of the President's meeting with Congressional leaders to explain changes in U.S. foreign policy was taken up with the question of secret agreements with the Saigon Government. The Democratic Senator, Mr. Henry Jackson, accused the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, two days ago of making secret agreements with South Vietnam committing the U.S. to "fateful misuse of action". Mr. Anderson said the President reviewed all the correspondence between the predecessor, Mr. Richard Nixon, and the South Vietnamese leadership at the meeting. "Everything was made public and there is no hidden chapter to be revealed," Mr. Anderson said.

The White House spokesman, Mr. Ronald Nessen, said Mr. Nixon gave South Vietnam private as well as public assurances that the C.S., "would react vigorously to major violations of the Paris Agreements when he was in office. The spokesman refused to answer repeated questions whether this meant military intervention."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 11, 1925

Deccan Sabha Council

Poona, April 10: The Council of the Deccan Sabha under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.R. Gandhi, Pleader, had passed a resolution condemning the Majority Report of the Reforms Enquiry Committee as very unsatisfactory and urging the appointment, in the interest of the smooth working of the constitution of a representative Royal Commission to make a thorough investigation into the question of further constitutional advance. The resolution also thanked Sir Tej Bahadur Sapra, Sir Sivaswami Iyer and Mr. Jinnah and Doctor Paranjpye for having made out a conclusive case against the continuance of the present system.

From Page One

Rana extradited; NIA arrests him in Delhi

The terror attacks left 166 people dead and 238 injured. Rana had served as a doctor in the Pakistani army for several years, before he moved to Canada and then to the United States, procuring citizenship in both countries.

It is alleged that Headley made eight visits to India for reconnaissance of potential targets. During those visits, he contacted Rana 231 times and kept him in the loop on the attack plans.

Headley also opened a Mumbai branch office of Rana's immigration law business for use as a front, and Rana helped him secure an Indian business visa. Days before the terror strikes, in November 2008, Rana and his wife had travelled to Mumbai, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Kerala during an 11-day visit to India.

After a Ministry of Home Affairs directive, the NIA registered a case against Headley and Rana on November 11, 2009, alleging a criminal conspiracy among members of Pakistan-based banned terror outfits LeT and Harkat-Ul Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI), to commit terrorist acts in Delhi and other parts of India. The agency filed a chargesheet against them and seven others on December 24, 2011.

Based on the findings, India moved a formal request in December 2019 for Rana's extradition from the U.S., where court proceedings began on June 10, 2020. The U.S. Supreme Court denied Rana's review petition on January 21, 2025.

(With inputs from PTI)

Beijing curbs imports of Hollywood movies

China has thus far focused on Europe, with a phone call between Premier Li Qiang and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen "sending a positive message to the outside world."

"China is willing to work with the EU to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of China and the EU, strengthen communication and exchanges, and deepen China-EU trade, investment and industrial cooperation," the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Hollywood studios once looked to China, and its giant film market, to help boost the box office performance of movies. But domestic films increasingly have outperformed Hollywood's fare in China.

Surrender policy is not a complete solution: Maoists

In a new letter, CPI(Maoist) reiterates that government's offensive should be halted to create a favourable climate for talks; Chhattisgarh Deputy CM says discussions can't be held amid violence

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

At variance: Security forces return from an encounter with Maoists in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh in March. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah appealed to the Maoists to lay down arms and join the mainstream, the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) said a surrender policy was not a complete resolution to the problem.

A press release dated April 8, attributed to the North-West Sub-Zonal Bureau of the CPI(Maoist), said the letter was an extension to its Central Committee's recent statement seeking peace talks and that Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma had rejected the committee's demand to create a favourable environment.

"Everyone knows that talks will not be possible without a favourable environment... The government wants to continue with the method it has adopted till now, and this should be opposed. There should also be opposition to the government's surrender policy being described as a complete resolution to the problem," the purported statement read.

Notably, the Chhattisgarh government last month announced its Maoist Surrender and Victim Rehabilitation Policy, 2025 that promises financial assistance for cadre who lay down arms. In his recent trip to Dantewada, Mr. Shah had urged Maoists to surrender, and stressed that under the new policy, villages that help in getting Maoists to surrender and declare themselves Maoist-free would receive development funds of ₹1 crore.

The letter reiterated a demand that security forces must stop the offensive in Maoist-dominated areas, mainly Bastar.

It claimed that the Sub-Zonal Bureau members would have to meet members of the leadership to take decisions regarding the peace talks, and it was also important to consider the opinion of the local leadership. "All this will not be possible in the midst of ongoing campaigns. It is necessary to stop the Kagar campaign [anti-Maoist exercise] to create a favourable environment. It is necessary to create a favourable environment to bring the process of talks to a conclusion. This is the responsibility of the government," it said.

Responding to the latest letter, Mr. Sharma said the government was ready for talks but the Maoists should understand that they need to free the villagers from their grip and that dialogue could not be held amid threat of violence.

"Naxalites say they have to discuss with the top leadership... have to talk at the local level, but the government has urged them not to wait for anybody else. If you are ready for discussion, if even a single person, or a small or big group is ready for discussion, we are ready to talk with them as well. The government assures it will stand with you until you settle down," he said.

Kuki bodies tell Meiteis not to climb hill for annual event

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Curfew continues in some parts of Churachandpur district after conflict over hoisting flags in a disputed area

An annual traditional event of the Meitei community involving a trek to a hill in a district dominated by the Kuki people has fuelled fresh tension in ethnic conflict-scarred Manipur.

Six Kuki tribal organisations, including the Kuki Students' Organisation, on Wednesday asked the non-tribal Meitei not to cross the 'buffer zone' for the Cheirao Ching Kaba, an annual event to climb the Thangjing Hill as a part of the celebration for Cheiraoba, the Meitei New Year that starts mid-April.

The buffer zone is a narrow strip separating the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley from the low hills, which are primarily inhabited by the Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribes.

'Political settlement'

"Unless and until a political settlement is reached by the government of India for the Kuki-Zo-Hmar community under the Constitution of India, no such friendly approach to the jurisdiction of Kuki-Zo-Hmar land would be allowed for the Meitei community," a joint statement by these organisations read.

The organisations said any attempt to cross the buffer zone would be "opposed tooth and nail".

Curfew in Churachandpur district, imposed after violence triggered by the assault on a Hmar community leader on March 16, was relaxed for 11 hours on Thursday.

The curfew, however, was not relaxed in an area surrounding two villages – Rengkai and V. Munhoih – where tension erupted on April 8 over the hoisting of community flags in a disputed area.

The curfew was also not lifted in the district's Kangvai, Samulamlan, and Sangaikot subdivisions.

HC granted bail to rape accused saying 'victim herself invited trouble'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh

The Allahabad High Court last month granted bail to a rape accused noting that the victim herself invited trouble and was also responsible for the same.

In her FIR, the victim, a postgraduate student, had stated that she had gone to a bar with her friends last September where they all drank alcohol and she became intoxicated and needed support.

In the police statement, the woman said that she had agreed to go to the house of the accused to take rest.

She alleged that the accused touched her inappropriately on the way and instead of his house in Noida, he took her to his relative's home in Gurgaon and raped her twice.

The accused, in his bail application, argued that considering the facts of the case as disclosed by the victim, it was not a case of rape but might be a case of consensual relationship between the parties concerned.

Counsel of the accused said that his client has been languishing in jail since December 2024 and has no criminal history. Hence, if he is released on bail, he will not misuse the liberty of bail and will cooperate in the early disposal of the case.

The Bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh, in his order of March 11, observed that she was competent enough to understand the "morality and significance" of her act as disclosed.

"This Court is of the view that even if the allegation of the victim is accepted as true, then it can also be concluded that she herself invited trouble and was also responsible for the same. A similar stand has been taken by the victim in her statement. In her medical examination, her hymen was found torn, but the doctor did not give any opinion about the sexual assault," the court noted while allowing bail to the accused.

India's decision to cancel transshipment facility won't affect Bangladesh: official

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Sheikh Bashir Uddin

Bangladesh interim government's Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin on Thursday said his country would not face any problems due to the cancellation of trans-shipment facilities by India and Dhaka would try to overcome the situation on its own.

His remarks came a day after India on Wednesday announced the withdrawal of the transshipment facility it had granted to Bangladesh for exporting various items to West Asia, Europe and various other countries, except Nepal and Bhutan.

"Just yesterday, discussions were held with business representatives from various sectors; even buyers were present. We will attempt to overcome the crisis through our arrangements," Mr. Bashir Uddin was quoted as saying by the Bangla language newspaper *Prothom Alo*.

He said Bangladesh was working to ensure that there was no deficiency in competitiveness through its capabilities.

"Commercial capacity will be enhanced. Simultaneously, steps are being taken to ensure that there are no shortcomings in connectivity either," he said responding to questions from journalists.

Asked what measures would be taken following this development, Mr. Bashir Uddin said: "There are some issues related to infrastructure while there are some issues related to increased costs – we are working on these matters. We are hopeful that the challenges can be overcome."

Asked whether Bangladesh plans to send a formal letter to India regarding the cancellation, the Commerce Adviser said: "At present, the matter of sending a letter is not under consideration." "Since the United States has suspended additional tariffs for three months, this provides an immediate relief and allows time for further discussions," he added.

RTI Act amendment won't cut transparency: Minister

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The upcoming amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005, will maintain "the need for transparency in public life", and will "not restrict disclosure of personal information", Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a letter to Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday.

Mr. Ramesh had raised civil society concern that the Digital Personal Data Protection Act's amendments to the RTI Act would allow the government to deny information on subsidy allocations and other schemes if the personal information of citizens and officials are involved.

The amendment – which will kick in when the DPDP Rules are notified in the coming weeks to enforce the Act – will be a significant blow to the RTI Act, according to activists. Civil society groups, spanning the gamut from digital rights advocates to pro-transparency outfits, have raised an alarm over this amendment for years. Over 120 Opposition MPs have now signed a letter to Mr. Vaishnaw, seeking a repeal of the amendment.

In his letter defending the amendment, Mr. Vaishnaw cited the Supreme Court's right to privacy judgment in 2017, which held the right to informational privacy as fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. There is a "need for harmonious provisions between the right to information and the right to privacy" laws, he said.

Scrap data law provision that 'dilutes' RTI: INDIA bloc

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a joint memorandum, more than 120 leaders from various parties of the INDIA bloc have written to Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw urging the government to repeal a provision in the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act that dilutes the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

DPDP Act alters Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, which allows personal information to be disclosed for the larger public interest.

Now even if the information is related to a public activity or interest, it cannot be disclosed under RTI. The DPDP Act which has already got Presidential assent, also removes the crucial proviso in the RTI Act that stated, "information which cannot be denied to Parliament or a State legislature shall not be denied to any person."

Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member John Brittas, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha member Javed Ali Khan, DMK's M.M. Abdulla and RJD spokesperson Nawal Kishore, addressed a press conference in Delhi on the issue.

Raj Thackeray warns banks, asks them to use Marathi

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has issued a stern warning to the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), urging immediate compliance with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directive to include Marathi in banking services. Failure to do so, he cautioned, would lead to intensified protests with banks bearing responsibility for any resulting law-and-order disruptions.

In a letter submitted by MNS leaders on Wednesday, Mr. Thackeray emphasised that banks must adhere to the three-language formula – English, Hindi, and the regional language (Marathi in Maharashtra) – as mandated by the RBI. "If banks do not implement Marathi in their services, the MNS will escalate its agitation...," the letter said.

Police search houses of separatists and attach properties of militants

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The police keep guard during a search in Udhampur on Thursday. PTI

Two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha dismissed two government employees for alleged anti-national activities, and the police searched the premises of separatists and attached properties of alleged militants in the Union Territory.

Invoking sections of Article 311, which bypasses any departmental inquiry and relies solely on security agencies' reports, the two terminated employees were identified as Basharat Ahmad Mir, an assistant wireless operator in the J&K Police, and Ishtiyak Ahmed Malik, a senior assistant in the Public Works Department.

Officials said the duo were terminated for "their deep involvement in anti-national activities and had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies".

"Mir was under intelligence radar on the basis of highly credible inputs from agencies that he was in continuous touch with Pakistan intelligence operatives. He was sharing critical and vital information to the adversary about security installations and deployment with the enemies," the dossier said.

Malik, according to the security agencies' dossier, was "listed as an active member of the proscribed unlawful association Jamaat-e-Islami and terror associate of Hizbul Mujahideen.

Operations continue

In Jammu, anti-militancy operations continued against two groups of militants in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts. Two separate gunfights between security forces and the militants were reported on Wednesday. However, no militant has been killed so far. The Army said a flag meeting between officials of the Indian and Pakistani armies was held in Poonch.

Akali Dal to pick new chief tomorrow as rebels put pressure

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which has been facing a stiff challenge to stay politically relevant in Punjab politics, is set to elect its new president and office-bearers on Saturday.

Meanwhile, party rebels continue to assert that by not entirely adhering to the directions of the Akal Takht, the party has challenged the authority of the highest Sikh temporal seat.

Taking a dig at the rebels, senior SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema alleged on Thursday that desperate attempts were being made to prevent the party from coming back into the political field.

Mr. Cheema had said earlier that the rebel group had aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and even the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to damage the SAD.

APPEAL

Master Rahul R Sunagad, MRN No. 10020001789106, 16 years old son of Revansiddappa Sunagad admitted Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center is diagnosed with acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He is planned for treatment with Chemotherapy. The approximate cost of Chemotherapy and supportive care would be **Rs. 16,00,000/-.**

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/ D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Rahul R Sunagad. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi.** All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Pakistan tries to distance itself from Rana, says he is Canadian

He served in the Pakistani Army as a doctor for several years and subsequently moved to Canada and then to the U.S., procuring citizenship of both countries; investigators have held that he retained links to the military for covert operations

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Pakistan on Thursday attempted to distance itself from 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks co-conspirator Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was extradited to India from the U.S.

To a question during a press briefing, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said Rana had not attempted to renew his Pakistani citizenship since he left the country.

"As far as our records indicate, he did not even apply for a renewal of his Pakistani-origin documents for the last two decades," Mr. Khan said in Islamabad, stressing that Rana was a Canadian citizen.

Rana, who was born in Pakistan, studied at the Pakistani military academy in Hassan Abdal in Punjab province, where he became friends with David Headley, the Lashkar-e-Taiba operative tasked with reconnaissance for the attacks that took place in Mumbai from November 26 to 29 in 2008.

On alert: Security was tightened as Tahawwur Hussain Rana was brought to the Patiala House Court in New Delhi on Thursday night. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Rana served in the Pakistani Army as a doctor for several years and subsequently moved to Canada and then to the U.S., procuring citizenship of both countries. While Rana had told investigators that he was declared a "deserter" after he left the Pakistani Army and moved to Canada in 1997 after developing a medical condition, investigators have held that he retained links to the military for covert operations.

The National Investigation Agency had said that Rana plotted the attacks with Headley and assisted him with visa and travel logistics. He also liaised with "Major Iqbal", who is also wanted in the case. The NIA filed a chargesheet against Rana and Headley in 2011.

Rana travelled to India with his wife in November 2008, shortly before the attacks.

Headley was convicted of the 26/11 conspiracy by a U.S. court but was offered immunity from extradition by U.S. officials. Rana was acquitted in the conspiracy case, but convicted of his links to the LeT and another terror plot in Copenhagen, and served part of a 14-year term in a California prison.

Israel welcomes move

Israel's Ambassador to India Reuven Azar welcomed the U.S. decision to extradite Rana and thanked India for its "persistence" in bringing the terrorists responsible for the Mumbai attacks to justice.

He said Rana was one of the "perpetrators of the terrible, horrendous terrorist attacks that happened in Mumbai".

Of the 166 people killed in the attacks, 141 were Indians and 25 foreigners, including four Israeli nationals, who were targeted at the Chabad House in Mumbai.

BJP says Rana's extradition is reflection of Modi's firm action against terrorism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP spokersperson says terror activities in the country had drastically reduced under Modi govt.

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday said the extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana was a reflection of new India's resolve of zero tolerance towards Pakistan-sponsored "Islamic terrorism" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said Rana's was not an ordinary extradition, as it was a manifestation of Mr. Modi's firm action against terrorism. In 2019, the Prime Minister had said that anyone threatening the unity, integrity, security, and identity of India or any Indian would be brought to justice.

Stating that the BJP never allowed vote-bank politics to dominate national interests, Mr. Poonawalla said the motto of new India was neither forgive nor forget the terrorists but track them down wherever they are and make them face the law.

He said the extradition was a big step towards justice not only for the Indian victims but also for those from several other countries, including the United States, Israel, France, Germany, Italy, and Malaysia, who were killed in the terror attacks.

He paid homage to the police and security personnel and officers who laid down their lives.

'Changed attitude'

Stating that in the past 10 years, the government's attitude towards terrorism had changed, owing to which terror activities in the country had drastically reduced, the BJP leader said between 2004 and 2014, "there was not a single month" without any terrorist attack in any major city.

"Delhi in 2005, Varanasi in 2006, Lucknow in 2007, Jaipur in 2008, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Agra...Pune...Bodh Gaya; terror attacks in different places had become normal. Whenever there was a terror attack, the standard operating procedure was to remain a mute spectator and only present arguments and reports on international forums, but no concrete action was taken...," he said, adding that over 700 civilians would be killed every year in terror attacks.

"Earlier, in the name of vote bank, a soft corner was adopted towards terrorism...today, air strikes and surgical strikes are done...instead of exposing Pakistan on international forums, between 2004 and 2014, a sinister attempt was made to put the blame on the people of India and also on the Indian security agencies, by shifting the blame from Pakistan," said Mr. Poonawalla.

He said attempts were made to create a fake narrative of "Hindu terror" and the RSS was also targeted over the Mumbai terror attacks.

Congress slams Centre for 'rushing to take credit' for extradition of Rana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Criticising the Narendra Modi government for "rushing to take credit" for the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the Congress on Thursday said it was the culmination of a decade-and-a-half of painstaking diplomatic, legal, and intelligence efforts, which were initiated, led, and sustained by the previous party-led government in close coordination with the U.S.

"Let's be clear: the Modi government did not initiate this process, nor did it secure any new breakthrough," former Home Minister P. Chidambaram said. The current BJP-led government merely benefited from the mature, consistent, and strategic diplomacy that begun under the United Progressive Alliance government, the Congress leader said.

P. Chidambaram

"This extradition is not the result of any grandstanding; it is a testament to what the Indian state can achieve when diplomacy, law enforcement, and international cooperation are pursued sincerely and without any kind of chest-thumping," Mr. Chidambaram said.

He detailed the UPA's efforts in a two-page long statement. The ground work began, he said, on November 11, 2009, when the National Investigation Agency registered a case in New Delhi against David Coleman Headley, Tahawwur Rana, and others involved in the 26/11 conspiracy. The FBI arrested Rana in Chicago in 2009 for supporting a failed Lashkar-e-Taiba plot in Copenhagen. The U.S. court acquitted Rana of direct involvement in the 26/11 attacks in June 2011.

'UPA govt. persisted'

"Despite legal setbacks, the UPA government persisted through institutional diplomacy and legal mechanisms," he said, flagging the interrogation of David Coleman Headley in the U.S. before the end of 2011 based on mutual legal cooperation frameworks under the MLAT. "The U.S. government transferred crucial evidence to India, which became part of the NIA's chargesheet filed in December 2011 against nine accused, including Rana," he said.

Based on this, a special NIA court in Delhi issued non-bailable warrants and Interpol Red Notices. "This was not a media stunt but quiet, determined legal diplomacy," he said. In 2012, External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid and Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai took up the matter of Headley and Rana's extradition with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Under Secretary Wendy Sherman.

By January 2013, Headley was sentenced to 35 years, and Rana's sentencing in the U.S. also took place. India's demand for Headley's extradition was reiterated firmly, even as the UPA government expressed its disappointment at the sentence. "This was a textbook example of how sensitive issues of international justice should be handled through diplomacy," he added.

Even after the change in government in 2014, it was the institutional efforts already in motion that kept the case alive. "These are not 'strong leader' moments, but are the slow wheels of justice, pushed forward by years of hard work," he said.

Youngest witness against Kasab recalls the horror at CST on 26/11

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

As Tahawwur Hussain Rana, an accused in the 26/11 terror attack was extradited to India on Thursday, survivors of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks recall the horror.

Devika Natwarlal Rotawan, who was just nine when the city came under attack in 2008, has turned 26 now and has a BA degree. She was shot in the right leg and had collapsed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus where she had gone with her brother and father, Natwarlal Rotawan, to board a train to Pune to visit her eldest brother.

"I was at the CST station between platform 12 and 13 when my brother said he wanted to use the restroom before boarding the train. My father, meanwhile, went to buy a ticket and suddenly there was a bomb blast and continuous firing. People were shot all over and when I was trying to escape the scene, I was shot in my right leg, and I collapsed there. There was no space at St. George Hospital, so I was transferred to J.J. Hospital where I was admitted for a month and a half and underwent six surgeries," she recalled.

Shocked city: Smoke is seen billowing out of the Taj Hotel during the 26/11 terror attacks in 2008. PTI

She was the youngest witness in the trial against Ajmal Kasab and her father was witness in the trial against Abu Ismail and Kasab.

Devika has grown up facing bullies in schools and neighbourhoods who shout, "Hey, look, Kasab is passing by," to taunt her.

Devika dreams of becoming an IPS officer, and if that does not happen, she wants to pursue a career that allows her to serve the country and fight against terrorism.

"I am glad Rana is being brought here because he may have key information about other masterminds and terrorists. He should be hanged to death," she says.

'Credit war'

After Union Ministers Amit Shah and Piyush Goyal lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan hit out at them on Thursday. Calling the credit war "laughable and childish", he said that the 26/11 terror attack was an attack on the nation. Slamming Mr. Goyal for his "sick mindset" for claiming that the Congress went soft on terrorists and gave biryani to Kasab, he said it was a "national attack" and the Government of India had taken up the battle against it.

"The entire effort to seek credit is quite laughable. It was the Maharashtra Crime Branch which had given the names of the two masterminds in 2009. Both of them [Headley and Rana] were arrested in Chicago in 2009 on the basis of the information given by the Maharashtra Police. The legal process of extradition started thereafter," he said.

He demanded that there be a fair trial for Rana. "We need to re-establish that there is rule of law here," he told *The Hindu*.

BJP campaign on Waqf law to feature town hall meets, sessions by MPs and MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party will carry out a nationwide campaign from April 20 to May 5 to spread awareness of the benefits of the recently passed Waqf (Amendment) Act, particularly among Muslims.

The "Waqf *Sudhar Janjagaran Abhyan* (Waqf Reform and Public Awareness Campaign)" will be organised as directed by party chief J.P. Nadda.

A team headed by the national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agrawal and including national secretaries Anil Antony and Arvind Menon and Minority Morcha national president Jamal Siddiqui will coordinate the campaign.

Through a circular, BJP general secretary and headquarters in-charge Arjun Singh said the law enacted after a healthy and comprehensive discussion in Parliament was historic.

'Quest for growth'

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi saw the move as a consequence of the collective quest for socio-economic justice, transparency, and inclusive growth.

"This will particularly help those who have long remained on the margins, thus being denied both voice and opportunity. This especially protects, and will benefit the interest of, Muslim women, poor Muslims, and Pasmanda Muslims. The legislation will boost transparency and also safeguard people's rights," he said.

At the State level, town halls will be held at key locations and among those invited will be clergy, doctors, artists, lawyers, academics, women activists, media personalities, and social media influencers from the Muslim and other communities. Meetings will be organised with the Christian community.

"Every MP and MLA should conduct at least one interactive meeting in his constituency," the circular said adding that at the district level, interactions involving influential members from the Muslim community and press conferences with presentation would be held.

Congress OBC department gets new chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the All India Congress Committee session in Ahmedabad, the Congress on Thursday appointed a new head for its Other Backward Classes (OBC) department.

Anil Jaihind (Yadav) has been appointed chairman of the AICC OBC wing.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT — e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited for procurement of 90,000 Kgs of Cardamom 8 MM (elachi) AGEB variety, 1,50,00,000 numbers of Plantain Leaves (each leaf shall not be less than 32 Cms width x 45 Cms length (full /half leaves), 75,000 Bundles (each Bundle 100 Nos) of Plate Leaves 16" dia, 40,000 Kgs of Fried Bengal Gram Dhall and 3,20,000 Kgs of Jaggery Aragonda Variety First quality by the Marketing Department, TTD. For tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555. Fax No.0877-2264554.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.19), Date:10-04-2025 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NOTIFICATION
(Issued as per para 6(7) of Adoption Regulation 2022)

1. Name of the child	:	Anvitha
2. Boy/Girl	:	Girl
3. Date of Birth	:	Not known
4. Name of the SAA where the child has been placed	:	Kerala State Child Welfare Council, Thiruvananthapuram
5. Date when the child was admitted in SAA	:	19/03/2018
6. CWC order no and date	:	CWC/TVPM/107/2018 dtd 19/03/2018

Any claims on the guardianship of the above-mentioned child may state the same with necessary evidence within 30 days from the date of notification to the District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, TC 42/1800 Rotary Junction, Opposite SBI Local Head Office, Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram - 695012, Phone - 0471 - 2345121. If no claims on the child have been informed within 30 days the child will be deemed to have no legal heirs and steps will be taken for the child's adoption.

Sd/- **District Child Protection Officer, Thiruvananthapuram**

F4/131/2025/I&PRD

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1.	Description of Tender	Tender for allotment of Shelves to Publisher and Book Sellers (Tamil, English and other language books) at Book Park at Chennai Central Metro Station.
2.	Period of Tender Document	**From 11.04.2025 to 17.04.2025 between 10.00 a.m. and 05.00 p.m.** The Document can be downloaded in E-Tender **http://www.tntenders.gov.in**
3.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	**17.04.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.**
4.	Pre Bid meeting date & time, place	**15.04.2025 at 03.00 p.m. at Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Chennai - 6**
5.	Tender opening time & date	**19.04.2025 at 03.30 p.m. at Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Chennai - 6**
6.	Details of websites address from which Tender documents can be downloaded free of cost.	**a) http://www.textbookcorp.tn.gov.in b) http://www.tntenders.gov.in**

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क्रमांक: अमुअ/जय/क्षेत्र (द्वितीय)/2024-25/

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S. No.	UBN No	NIB No.
1. NIT 16/	PHE 2425WLOB11774	PHE2425A5365
2. NIT 17/	PHE 2425WLOB11775	PHE2425A5365
3. NIT 18/	PHE 2425WLOB11776	PHE2425A5365
4. NIT 19/	PHE 2425WLOB11778	PHE2425A5365

Additional Chief Engineer, PHED Jaipur Region-II Jaipur

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E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited for TN-1354(RVU2526GLOB00022) Supply, Erection, testing & commissioning of battery banks, 220 V/2000 AH, 220 V/500 AH and 220 V/200AH Tubular (Lead-Acid), HDP-II and accessories and dismantling & buy back of existing installed exide battery bank, 1356(RVU2526GLOB00027) Supply, Erection, testing & commissioning work for interconnection arrangement (Tie feeder) of 6.6KV Cubical switchgear panels incorporating VCB (Vacuum Circuit Breaker rating:- 12KV, 3150Amp., Isc:- 40KA@1sec.) for Phase#I to Phase#II through HT power cable (i.e. rating:- 2RX1CX 630sq. mm/phase) along with associated accessories, 2020(RVU2526GLOB00038) Supply of PVC V-Bar, Drift Eliminator Blade, Nozzles, GRP Grid and associated items of Induced draft, Cross flow Cooling Tower & 3352(RVU2526GLOB00046) Supply of various conveyor rollers and frames installed at CHP & AHP. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/622 — RVUN/PR-4178 — Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M-I)

INBRIEF

Bengal teachers continue stir after Wednesday's violence

Protests broke out across Kolkata on Thursday in support of teachers who have been agitating over a Supreme Court ruling that annulled their recruitment. People from all walks of life, including junior resident doctors who were part of the R.G. Kar movement, joined the protesters after the police caned them on Wednesday. The teachers led a rally from Sealdah to Esplanade, 8 km away, and concluded with a sit-in demonstration. Denying allegations that protesting teachers had instigated violence on Wednesday, one teacher, Sagar Mondal, said, "They should publish the OMR sheets and clear the names of the deserving candidates. Why are they not doing it?"

India and Japan explore ways to expand tourism

Initiatives such as promoting Buddhist sites in India for Japanese tourists, encouraging Japanese student visits to the country and improving air connectivity between the two countries were among the key issues discussed for expanding bilateral tourism between India and Japan. The 4th Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Tourism Cooperation between India and Japan also explored increased private sector involvement and strategies to harness media and influencer engagements for boosting tourist flow. The meeting was co-chaired by Director-General, Ministry of Tourism, Mugdha Sinha, and Haraikawa Naoya, Commissioner, Japan Tourism Agency (JTA).

Global order is disrupted by trade weaponisation: Rajnath

Issues such as de-globalisation, intense nationalism, resource scarcity loom large, Defence Minister says; artificial intelligence and other technology is revolutionising warfare in critical ways, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the weaponisation of trade and finance, anxieties created by concentration of supply chains, monopolies over disruptive technologies and lack of transparency of data flows were leading the world to "an era of self-help and unilateral decisions, leading to a decline of global institutions and order".

He was speaking at the convocation of the 80th course of the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington, Nilgiris, comprising 479 student officers, including 38 from 26 foreign countries.

The "global geopolitical situation is marked by tremendous flux, with rapidly shifting alignments, disruptions and conflicts being the order of the day", he said. "Issues such as de-globalisation, intense nationalism, resource scarcity, human migration, food security, climate concerns, and threat of global pandemics loom large."

He said technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, military autonomy, dronery, and quantum blockchains were "revolutionising" deterrence and warfare in critical ways.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attends the convocation at the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington on Thursday. ANI

"Warfare is moving rapidly, beyond the traditional domains of land, sea, and air, to space, cyberspace, the undersea and newer domains of creative endeavour. Dronery, for instance, has emerged in the Ukraine-Russia conflict virtually as a new arm, if not a transformative science. The majority of losses of soldiers and equipment has been attributed neither to traditional artillery nor to armour but to drones. Space capacities in the Low Earth Orbit similarly, are transforming military intelligence through persistent surveillance, positioning, targeting and communications – thus taking combat to a new high," he added.

The armed forces will "increasingly need to operate jointly in a multi-domain environment where cyber, space, and information warfare will be as potent as conventional operations", he said adding that "we are in an age where cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and economic warfare have become tools that can prosecute and achieve politico-military aims without a single shot being fired".

Mr. Singh said India faced persistent threats along its northern and western borders, "compounded by the threat of proxy war and terrorism emanating from the epicentre of terrorism in our neighbourhood".

He called upon the officers to develop the ability to be "critical thinkers, capable of analysing issues, extracting relevant deductions and anticipating future requirements", while being conscious of emerging technologies, geopolitical landscape and national security requirements.

The Defence Ministry decided to observe 2025 as the "Year of Reforms".

"This would aim at transforming the armed forces into a technologically advanced combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations. Nine broad areas have been identified, addressing the entire range of modernisation imperatives to include defence acquisition and procedural reforms. I am pleased to share that collectively we are making significant progress on the aims we have set for ourselves," he added.

Centre to pay more for PM-POSHAN scheme in schools

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The material cost for cooking hot meals in schools under the PM-POSHAN scheme has been enhanced by 9.5%, considering the inflation index, causing an additional cost of ₹954 crore to the exchequer in the financial year 2025-26, the Education Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

In Bal Vatikas and primary schools, the daily material cost for a student will be raised from ₹6.19 to ₹6.78 from May 1, and in upper primary schools, from ₹9.29 to ₹10.17.

"These rates of material cost are the minimum mandatory rates, however, States/UTs [Union Territories] are free to contribute more than their prescribed share, as some States/UTs have been contributing more than their own resources for providing meals with augmented nutrition under the PM POSHAN Scheme," the Ministry said.

Bal Vatika and primary students are provided 20 gm of pulses, 50 gm of vegetables and 5 gm of oil, while upper primary students need 30 gm, 75 gm, and 7.5 gm, respectively.

States are free to contribute more than their prescribed share, the Ministry said.

The Centrally sponsored scheme serves one hot-cooked meal to 11.2 crore students studying in Bal Vatikas and from Classes 1 to 8 in 10.36 lakh government and aided schools on all school-days. The scheme aims at providing nutritional support and enhancing school participation of students.

The Centre also provides about 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains through the Food Corporation of India. It bears 100% cost of foodgrains, including subsidy of approximately ₹9,000 crore a year, and 100% transportation cost from the FCI depot to schools. The per-meal cost, after adding all components including food grains cost, comes to approximately ₹12.13 for Bal Vatika and primary classes and ₹17.62 for upper primary.

SC judgment on T.N. Governor addresses a Constitutional silence

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's deadlines for Governors to decide the fate of Bills sent to them for assent is a bid to plug a "Constitutional silence". The text of the Constitution does not specify any time limits for Governors. This had led Governors in multiple non-BJP-ruled States to sit on Bills.

'Real power'

The situation had prevailed despite a November 2023 Supreme Court order in *State of Punjab versus Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab* that "real power vests with the elected representatives of the people in a parliamentary form of democracy.

The Governor, as an appointee of the President, is a titular head of the State".

The governments of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Kerala had continued to accuse their Governors of behaving like "political rivals".

On April 8, a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan declared that failure by Governors to comply with its maximum time limit of three months, if they want to withhold assent or reserve Bills for the consideration of the President, would invite judicial action.

With this, the April 8 judgment has gone a step further from earlier decisions of the court which had only cajoled Governors to act within a "reasonable time".

A week before this judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case, the Supreme Court had made stern remarks against another Constitutional silence which has facilitated Speakers to delay decisions in disqualification proceedings under the anti-defection law.

The remarks came from a Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai on April 3, while reserving judgment on appeals challenging the months-long delay shown by the Telangana Speaker to decide disqualification petitions filed under the anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule of the Constitution) against 10 BRS MLAs who had shifted to the ruling Congress in the State.

Specific time periods

Justice Gavai said the court would fix "specific time periods" for Speakers, or disqualification petitions may end up in the "dustbins" and the Tenth Schedule would be reduced to a mockery.

The Bench had referred to a 2020 judgment of the Supreme Court in the *Keshab Meghachandra Singh* case in which it had said disqualification petitions under the Tenth Schedule ought to be decided by Speakers within three months.

This has largely been followed by Speakers in breach so far.

Maharashtra approves 256 acres of salt pan land for developing Dharavi

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has cleared the allocation of 256 acres of salt pan land in Mulund, Kanjurmarg, and Bhandup for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) to rehabilitate slum dwellers. While environmental concerns have been raised, DRP CEO S.V.R. Srinivas said the land was safe for development, having been decommissioned by the Salt Commissioner of India over a decade ago.

"The sea hasn't touched these plots since the Eastern Express Highway was built. They are no longer flood buffers or under CRZ regulations," Mr. Srinivas said, adding that all necessary environmental clearances will be obtained before construction.

The allotted land lies west of the expressway, away from ecologically sensitive wetlands frequented by flamingos. AFP

The land lies west of the expressway, away from ecologically sensitive wetlands frequented by flamingos.

The move aligns with Mumbai's Development Plan 2034, which earmarks salt pan lands for affordable housing. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has stated that without utilising such land, Mumbai's redevelopment is impossible.

The Union government has already allocated 55 acres in Wadala for an Excise Department complex and 15 acres in Kanjur for Metro Line 6's car shed.

Critics and Opposition leaders question why housing for the poor faces resistance when infrastructure projects on similar land do not.

The move aligns with Mumbai's Development Plan 2034, which earmarks salt pan lands for affordable housing projects

Mr. Srinivas clarified that the land remains with the State government, with NMDPL only paying premiums.

"This is a human transformation mission, not just housing," he said, reiterating the project's goal of a slum-free Mumbai.

Work will proceed only after securing all environmental approvals, ensuring compliance with regulations.

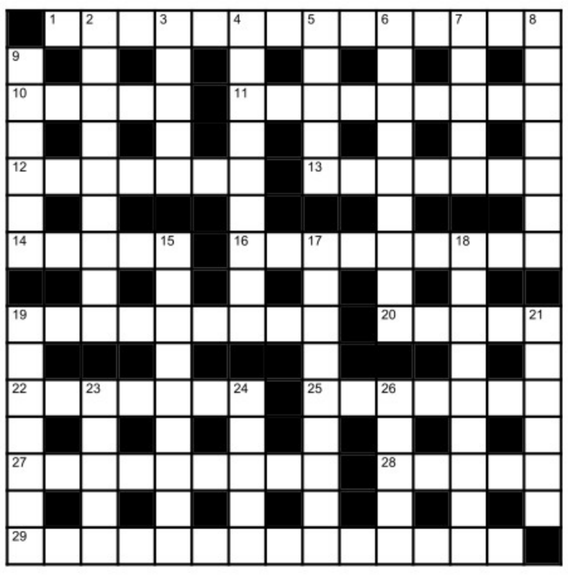
(With agency inputs)

TH CROSSWORD + 14456

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Thirty seconds to channel port - thing is to show will power (4,4,6)
10 Force horse - regularly show such colour (5)
11 Following the flock - sick man always smoked a cigar (9)
12 Girl and her family may land in a pickle (7)
13 Calculating outside the shop neatly (7)
14 First of all, let it mix inside totally - check (5)
16 I condemn a poor capital (9)
19 Retainers return fare without irritation (7-2)
20 Music record is concealed inside (5)
22 In the style of an ex-president not only in a Southern state (7)
25 One not going against the ultimate stripper (7)
27 Call again - lost interest over tense vixen? (9)
28 Is having limited scope for these famous universities (5)
29 Way to get into more debt - democrats egg on perversely (6,8)

Down

2 Strange menu, 80% in China love cooked mongoose (9)
3 Ultimately joker can cut all other cards - that's rubbish (5)
4 Perhaps, I can enter rocky caves - there are openings (9)
5 Wins after close to four dismissals (5)
6 One gets hold of diamonds that are highly valued (9)
7 Oliver's wind (5)
8 Conveyed air seeps in a rush (7)
9 Head of government in one long race (6)
15 On the other hand, the 27 gets a home (4,5)
17 Ancestral building in the city? (9)
18 According to place in existence (9)
19 Henry wearing a suit even in very hot places (7)
21 Implied threat over essential site evacuations (2,4)
23 Maurice has a heart, perhaps of gold (5)
24 A large gun causing panic (5)
26 For example, protecting family by being frugal with supplies (5)

SUDOKU

8	4	1	3					7
			7	8				
				1	6	2		4
	2	3				5		9
1								8
6		9				7	2	
2		8	6	3				
				4	8			
4					5	8	9	2

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	C	H	E	M	E		B	A	D	D	E	B	T	S
O		A		O			C		O		U		A	
B	E	Z	A	N	T		C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L
E		E		E		A		E		E		K		U
R	A	L	L	Y	I	N	G		A	S	P	E	C	T
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N	E	U	R	A	S	T	H	E	N	I	A			
G		T		U		H		R		C		H		O
			I	N	T	E	R	C	E	S	S	I	O	N
A		V		D		R		H		C		T		T
C	H	I	S	E	L		D	E	V	I	L	I	S	H
A		E		R		A		D		E		T		E
C	O	W	L	I	C	K	S		O	N	I	O	N	S
I		E		N		I				C		F		L
A	R	R	O	G	A	N	T		B	E	L	F	R	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	1	3	9	8	4	2	5
9	3	5	6	2	4	7	1	8
2	4	8	1	5	7	3	9	6
4	1	2	5	8	3	6	7	9
7	9	3	4	6	1	8	5	2
5	8	6	9	7	2	1	4	3
8	5	7	2	4	6	9	3	1
1	2	4	8	3	9	5	6	7
3	6	9	7	1	5	2	8	4

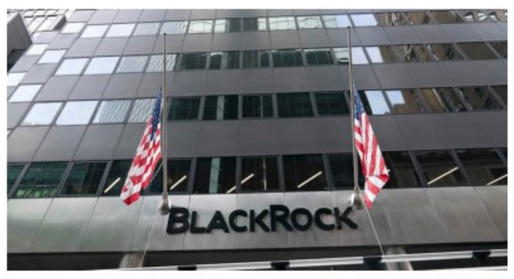
FAITH

Chanting His names

In pasuram five of Tiruppavai, the benefits of namasankeerthana are described, said T.N. Aravamuda Thathachariar in a discourse. The efficacy of namasankeerthana lies in the fact that every name of Lord Narayana has a reason behind it. And those reasons have to do with His various auspicious qualities, or kalyana gunas, as they are called. As we chant His names, we are, in fact, celebrating one or the other of His qualities. He is a 'Mayan,' says Andal in this verse. Indeed, Krishna deserved this name, because of His many unbelievable deeds. The moment He was born, the shackles fell from the hands of His father Vasudeva. Was this not a supernatural feat? Even when he was a young boy, He killed Kamsa, yet another impossible task for any ordinary mortal. And yet, this Krishna, who demonstrated through such deeds that He was the Supreme One, also chose to grow up amidst cowherds of Gokula.

He is the One who cannot be fathomed even by sages, who have done penance for years. But He was never far away from Gopas and Gopikas. Doesn't such simplicity also make Him a Mayan? Andal uses the name Damodara in this pasuram. Damodara is a name of Krishna that exemplifies His simplicity. It is a reference to His being tied up by Yasoda. He proudly bears the scar from this episode, because it was not Yasoda who tied Him up. The tying up happened because He willed it. Such was His saulabhya. Devaki became the most blessed mother, because she carried Him in her womb. If He honoured Devaki in this manner, He honoured Yasoda by allowing her to tie Him up. When we fix our minds on His qualities, and chant His names, the fire of such devotion burns up our sins.

INBRIEF



'BlackRock largest investor in Adani's $750 mn bond issue'

Funds managed by BlackRock, the global investment behemoth, emerged as the largest subscribers of the $750-million private bond issuance by the Adani Group. The U.S.-based asset manager, overseeing $12 trillion in assets, has taken on one-third of the $750 million issuance, which carries a tenure of 3-5 years, sources said. BlackRock's move marks its first private placement in India's infrastructure sector -- a segment the firm is increasingly bullish on. PTI

Biocon Biologics receives U.S. FDA approval for Jobevne

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Biocon Biologics' Jobevne (bevacizumab-nwgd), a biosimilar Bevacizumab for intravenous use. Jobevne is a biosimilar to the reference product Avastin (bevacizumab) and is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor that binds with VEGF and blocks the interaction with its receptors to prevent angiogenesis, combating cancer by restricting blood supply to the tumor, Biocon said.

U.S. court removes injunction on Sun Pharma's drug launch

Drugmaker Sun Pharma on Thursday said the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has vacated a preliminary injunction effective immediately that thus far restricted the company from launching severe alopecia areata drug Leqselvi (deuruxolitinib) in the U.S. While the litigation, in a patent infringement case, with Incyte Corporation continues, the preliminary injunction granted by the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey's is no longer in effect.

TCS net dips 1.7% to ₹12,224 cr.

Board proposes final dividend of ₹30 per equity share; company appoints Aarthi Subramanian as president and chief executive officer; Mangesh Sathe to be new chief strategy officer

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS), reported a 1.68% decline in net profit to ₹12,224 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, compared with ₹12,434 crore in the year-earlier period due to higher investments.

Revenues grew 5.29% to ₹64,479 crore from ₹61,237 crore in the same period last year. Operating margin for the quarter was 24.2%, while net margin was 19%.

The growth was led by regional markets (22.5%), Energy, Resources and Utilities (ERU) segment (4.6%) and BFSI (2.5%). The board proposed a final dividend of ₹30 per equity share.

For the full year, the company reported 6% YoY growth in net profit at ₹48,553 crore, while revenue also grew 6% YoY to ₹2,55,324 crore. The shareholder payout during year was ₹44,962 crore and the total employee headcount was at 607,979. IT services attrition was 13.3%.

During the year, the company onboarded 42,000 trainees and similar number is expected to be hired in the current financial year.

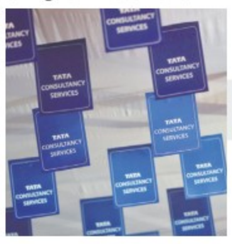
"Due to the [trade war] uncertainties we are observing delays in decision making and projects starting with respect to discretionary investments. Despite this all our major geographies exhibited growth on a sequential basis," said K. Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.

The company announced the appointment of Aarthi Subramanian as president and Chief Operating Officer.

Her appointment will be effective May 1, 2025. Post that she will become an executive director on the board. The company also announced the appointment of Mangesh Sathe as Chief Strategy Officer from May 1. 2025.

Report card

TCS attributed the 1.68% decline in its fourth quarter net profit to higher investments



- Revenues grew 5.29% to ₹64,479 crore from ₹61,237 crore in the same period last year
- Operating margin for the quarter was 24.2%, while net margin stood at 19%
- Growth was led by regional markets (22.5%), Energy, Resources and Utilities segment (4.6%) and BFSI (2.5%)

U.S. tariff pause a temporary respite for Indian exporters

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The U.S.'s pause on reciprocal tariffs, retaining only the 10% baseline tariff, is expected to provide interim relief to Indian exporters. "There is a return to some sort of normalcy. But, nothing is final yet," said a textile exporter.

According to Kirit Bhansali, chairman of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, the pause will enable exporters to stabilise operations and strategise for the months ahead. The added cost of 10% is likely to lead to a short-term slowdown in demand in the U.S., as it will make jewellery products more expensive for the U.S. consumers.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry said on Thursday that the pause would provide a short-term respite. The U.S. is the largest market for Indian textile and garment exports. It is crucial that the Central government intensifies its engagement with the U.S. for a sustainable and mutually beneficial solution. It should also consider an interim protection scheme for textile exports, it said.

Export promotion council representatives, who did not want to be quoted, pointed out that in the current situation, with 125% duty on China, the biggest adversary (for Indian global trade) is almost out of the picture.

The China plus one strategy that the international buyers were looking at will change. It is a level-playing field for countries such as India, Vietnam, and South Korea. Almost all countries are looking at bilateral trade agreements with the U.S. and when India negotiates, it will not only be on tariffs but on a host of other issues, they said.

"There is a new world order taking shape. India cannot sit back and expect orders and investments to come its way. The government should create an environment to attract investments and increase the share of exports in the GDP," said one of the export promotion council heads.

Further, India should be cautious and more stringent on rules of origin for imports because China has scaled up its production capacities enormously, can produce at almost one-third the cost, and has a huge reserve of raw materials. It is among the countries that are part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and would look at different markets for its products, they said.

The pause will enable exporters to strategise for the months ahead. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Cyient DLM to design Deutsche Aircraft cabin management system

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Integrated electronics manufacturing solutions provider Cyient DLM will undertake the design, development and manufacturing of the cabin management system (CMS) for German aircraft maker Deutsche Aircraft's next-generation 40-seater regional turboprop D328eco.

Leveraging their aerospace expertise, Cyient DLM and parent Cyient aim to deliver a unique CMS solution for this class of aircraft. The upcoming project is also a significant achievement for the Indian aerospace ecosystem, demonstrating its capability to develop and certify advanced products.

It will be one of Deutsche Aircraft's first electronics programmes designed and manufactured entirely in India, Cyient DLM said on Thursday in a release on expanding its strategic partnership with the German regional aircraft maker.

Average home price surges 9% in top 9 cities: PropEquity

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Housing prices rose in Kolkata by 29%, Bengaluru (15%) Delhi-NCR (5%) and Chennai (4%)

The weighted average launch price of homes in India's top nine cities rose by 9% in FY2024-25 to ₹13,197 per sq. ft as compared with ₹12,569 per sq. ft. in FY2023-24, according to a study by data analytics firm PropEquity.

These cities include Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Pune.

As per the study in the last one year, housing prices rose the most in Kolkata by 29%, followed by Thane (17%), Bengaluru (15%), Pune (10%), Delhi-NCR (5%), Hyderabad (5%) and Chennai (4%). Housing prices, however, fell by 3% each in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

GreenLine Mobility of Essar Group raises $275 mn via equity

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The funding will enable the deployment of more than 10,000 LNG and EV trucks.

Essar Group's GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd., a green logistics operator of LNG and electric-powered heavy commercial trucks, announced a $275 million equity investment, including $20 million investment from investor and entrepreneur Nikhil Kamath to hasten decarbonisation of heavy trucking in India.

GreenLine said it will aid in decarbonising India's transport sector, which contributes 15% of its total carbon emissions.

The funding will enable deployment of more than 10,000 LNG and EV trucks, along with the establishment of a nationwide network of 100 LNG refuelling stations, EV charging stations and battery swap units. The initiative aims to cut one million tonne carbon emissions annually.

"This as an opportunity to invest in clean energy to power our electric trucks," said Anshuman Ruia, director, Essar.

Germany's TUV SUD unveils e-mobility lab for Indian EV sector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The lab brings practical education to auto businesses, manufacturing units, training institutes

TUV SUD, a German firm that focuses on safety, quality, compliance, security and sustainability solutions, has offered a preview of its e-mobility training mobile lab for the EV sector at its campus.

Top company officials said the lab is the first-of-its-kind, expert-led, mobile training facility that brings practical, real-world education directly to the doors of automotive businesses, manufacturing units and training institutes.

''The launch of our e-mobility training laboratory represents a significant step forward in advancing the skills and safety standards of professionals in the e-mobility sector," said Mr. Simon Lemin, CEO, TUV SUD South Asia.

The lab, built to serve a broad range of stakeholders, including auto technicians and engineers, first responders and emergency personnel, manufacturing and assembly line staff and institutional sales teams, helps remove logistical barriers, cuts downtime and ensures compliance with global safety standards, they claimed.

'Geopolitical risk to hit emerging economies harder in second month'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Risk factor: Repeated occurrences of geopolitical shocks lends persistence to turmoil, keeping risks elevated, as per RBI study. AP

The adverse effect of geopolitical risks on stock and foreign exchange markets and credit spread of emerging economies is more pronounced in the second month following the risk, as per a study by the RBI published in Monetary Policy Report 2025

The authors construct Geo-Political Risk (GPR) index to measure changes in such risks. They found a 1 percentage point (pp) difference in the GPR leads to a 0.25 pp decline in stock markets, currencies depreciate by 0.16 pp and credit spreads slide by 1pp. Credit spread is the difference between the benchmark government bond yield (which in India's case is the 10-year bond with a 6.55% yield as of April 9) and the bonds issued by corporates. Yield is the interest paid by the issuer of the bond to the holder.

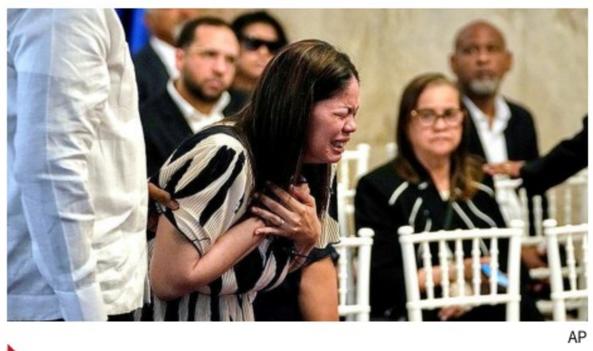
Stocks impacted

While this is significant, the study found that the effects of a 1 pp increase in geopolitical risk lead to the stock markets shedding gains by 0.64 pp in second month, currencies depreciating 0.32 pp and credit spread worsening 1.2 pp.

Though the effect wears out eventually, "repeated occurrence of such geopolitical shocks that impinges on the economy with differential impact has lent a persistence to the turmoil and uncertainty, keeping the risks elevated," the authors said in the study.

SANTO DOMINGO

Toll in roof collapse at a nightclub in Dominican Republic rises to 218



AP

The toll in a roof collapse at an iconic nightclub in the Dominican Republic surged to 218 on Thursday, an official said. Crews at the scene were still looking for victims and potential survivors, although no one has been found alive since Tuesday afternoon. "We've practically combed through ground zero," the official added. AP

SYDNEY

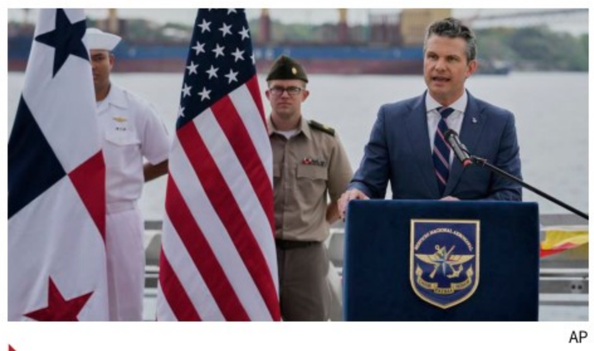
Palau stands with Taiwan 'until death do us part', says President

AFP

Pacific nation Palau will not cave to diplomatic pressure from China and will remain an ally of Taiwan "until death do us part", President Surangel Whipps said in Sydney. One of the few remaining nations to recognise Taiwan's claim to statehood, Palau has repeatedly risked Beijing's ire by refusing to reverse its stance. AFP

PANAMA CITY

U.S. Defence Secretary moots plan for troops to 'revive' Panama bases



AP

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth floated the idea of U.S. troops returning to Panama to "secure" its canal, a suggestion quickly shot down by the Central American country's government. He suggested during a visit to Panama that "by invitation" the U.S. could "revive" military bases to an isthmus it invaded 35 years ago. AFP

WASHINGTON

Russia, U.S. swap prisoners in an attempt to shore up relations

AP

Moscow freed a Russian-American convicted of treason in exchange for a Russian-German man jailed on smuggling charges in the U.S., a prisoner swap that was completed on Thursday as the two countries met to repair ties. Ksenia Karelina was released by Russia for Arthur Petrov as part of a swap in Abu Dhabi in the UAE. AP

With new rate, U.S. tariffs on China now stand at 145%

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's steep tariff hike targeting Chinese goods, which took effect on Thursday, brings Washington's additional rate on many products to 145%, the White House confirmed.

Mr. Trump's 90-day halt in fresh duties for dozens of countries has come into place. He also doubled down by raising new tariffs on Chinese imports to 125%, a figure that stacks atop a 20% additional duty from earlier in the year over China's alleged role in the fentanyl supply chain. This takes the total tariffs on Chinese products this year to 145%, stacking on existing levies from past administrations.

EU pauses counter-tariffs for 90 days after U.S. reprieve

Ursula von der Leyen says the EU wants to give 'negotiations a chance', but maintains that if talks are not satisfactory, countermeasures on €20.9 billion worth of American goods will kick in

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive commission said on Thursday it will put trade retaliation measures on hold for 90 days to match U.S. President Donald Trump's pause on his sweeping new tariffs and leave room for a negotiated solution.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the commission, which handles trade for the bloc's 27 member countries, "took note of the announcement by President Trump."

New tariffs on €20.9 billion ($23 billion) of U.S. goods will be put on hold for 90 days because "we want to give negotiations a chance," she said in a statement.

Old allies: Some €4.4 billion in goods and services crosses the Atlantic each day as part of trade between the U.S. and the EU. AFP

But she warned: "If negotiations are not satisfactory, our countermeasures will kick in."

Mr. Trump imposed a 20% levy on goods from the EU as part of his onslaught of tariffs of 10% and upward against global trading partners but said on Wednesday he will pause them for 90 days to give countries a chance to negotiate solutions. Countries subject to the pause will face Mr. Trump's 10% baseline tariff.

The targeted goods are a tiny fraction of the €1.6 trillion in U.S.-EU annual trade. Some €4.4 billion in goods and services crosses the Atlantic each day in what the European Commission calls "the most important commercial relationship in the world." The EU has targeted smaller lists of goods in hopes of exerting political pressure and avoiding economic damage from a wider escalation of tit-for-tat tariffs.

China slams 'irresponsible remarks' made by Zelenskyy

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China warned parties in the Ukraine war on Thursday against making "irresponsible remarks" after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Beijing knows its citizens are being recruited by Russia to fight in the conflict.

Mr. Zelenskyy said on Wednesday that Kyiv had details of 155 Chinese nationals who had been deployed to assist Moscow's invasion, a day after claiming the Ukrainian Army had captured two Chinese soldiers in the eastern Donetsk region.

Asked about Mr. Zelenskyy's assertion on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry told "relevant parties" to "refrain from expressing irresponsible remarks".

Fresh claims: Ukrainian President said Beijing knows its citizens were being recruited by Russia to fight in the conflict. REUTERS

"We would advise the relevant parties to recognise China's role correctly and clear-headedly," Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said at a regular news briefing, without mentioning Ukraine or Mr. Zelenskyy by name.

China has portrayed itself as a neutral party in the grinding three-year war.

Mr. Zelenskyy said on Wednesday that the "overt involvement of Chinese citizens in combat operations... is a deliberate step towards expanding the war".

"They drag other countries into war," Mr. Zelenskyy said of Russia.

"I believe that they are now dragging China into this war."

After women, Taliban morality police target men in Afghanistan

Associated Press

The Taliban morality police in Afghanistan have detained men and their barbers over hairstyles and others for missing prayers at mosques during the holy month of Ramzan, a UN report said on Thursday, six months after laws regulating people's conduct came into effect.

The Vice and Virtue Ministry published laws in August covering many aspects in Afghanistan, including public transport, music, shaving and celebrations. Most notably, the ministry issued a ban on women's voices and bare faces in public.

Thursday's report said in the first six months of the laws' implementation, over half of detentions made under it concerned "either men not having the compliant beard length or hairstyle, or barbers providing non-compliant beard trimming or haircuts." The report said that the morality police regularly detained people arbitrarily "without due process and legal protections."

On the draw

Court issues arrest warrant against Hasina, daughter

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Former Bangladesh PM, her daughter and 17 others have been accused of corruption

A Bangladeshi court on Thursday issued a new arrest warrant against deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter Saima Wajed Putul and 17 others in a graft case, accusing them of procuring a residential plot through "fraudulent" means.

On Thursday, Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Zakir Hossain Galib accepted the charge sheet submitted by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). As the accused were absconding, the court issued arrest warrants against them.

The latest case pertains to a piece of leased out land by state-run Rajdhani Unyan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) in Purbachal area on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka.

'Iran may stop cooperating with IAEA if threats persist'

Reuters
DUBAI

Iran may suspend cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog if external threats continue, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader said, after Donald Trump again warned of military force. "Continued external threats and putting Iran under the conditions of a military attack could lead to deterrent measures like the expulsion of IAEA inspectors and ceasing cooperation with it," Ali Shamkhani said.

Sport

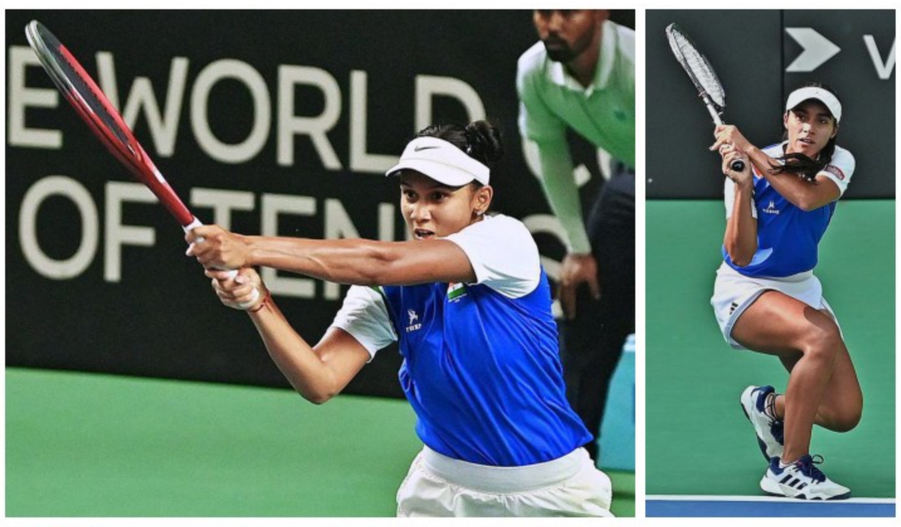
Vaidehi, Shrivalli take India past Hong Kong

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty played a spell-binding game for more than two hours and a half to beat Hong Yi Cody Wong 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-3 to clinch the tie for India against Hong Kong in the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis championship at the Balewadi Stadium on Thursday.

Playing without the services of the top player Sahaja Yamalapalli, the team was on shaky ground. Shrivalli had to step up as the No. 1 player and she did so in style, taking her explosive game to a different level, much to the delight of the cheering fans.



Top show: Shrivalli and Vaidehi starred in India's victory. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Earlier, Vaidehi Chaudhari playing her first rubber in the event, overcame spells of nervous play to beat Ho Ching Wu 7-6(8), 6-1 in a contest that also spanned more than two hours. Cody Wong was a much superior opponent and had the athleticism, craft and drop shots that teased Shrivalli right through the match.

It was courage backed by a superior game that helped Shrivalli win her third match in the current championship, from which the top two teams will qualify for the play-off.

India will play Taiwan on Friday and Korea thereafter. Even though India won the tie against Hong Kong by clinching both the singles matches, the doubles had to be played, as every rubber, set and game would count towards ranking the teams eventually in the round-robin league format. The host won the doubles to make it 3-0.

After the loss to New Zealand 1-2, India had done well to beat Thailand 2-1 on Wednesday.

New Zealand stayed on top with its third victory in as many matches.

The results (league): India bt Hong Kong 3-0 (Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Ho Ching Wu 7-6(8), 6-1; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Hong Yi Cody Wong 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-3; Ankita Raina & Prarthana Thombare lost to Eudice Chong & Hong Yi Cody Wong 7-6(2), 3-6, [11-13]).

Amiya, Srabani claim titles

INDIAN OPEN

Sports Bureau
RANCHI

Amiya Mallick topped the field but the 32-year-old was far from his best, clocking 10.66 seconds to win the 100m at the third Indian Open athletics meet at the Birsa Munda Stadium on Thursday.

The former National record holder, with a personal best of 10.26s, was returning to action after 2023 and although he has not slipped since then – he clocked the same at the Open Nationals back then – Indian men's sprint has quickened a lot and Amiya has work to do.

It was a similar story among the women with Srabani Nanda completing the sprint double but in relatively slow timings – 12.33s for 100m and 24.75s for 200 – that were still good enough to beat the field in overcast conditions.

Storm delay

This was followed by a heavy downpour and storm that forced the organisers to stop the competition for more than two hours.

Things remained bleak on resumption with the lights going off midway through the competition. The tough conditions meant several sub-par performances, including Sachin Yadav's in javelin who made only two attempts and had a best of 70.62m to place second.

The results (winners only): Men: 100m: 1. Amiya Mallick (Odi, 10.66s); **200m:** 1. Raja Babu Alam (Del, 21.63s); **400m:** 1. Rahul Kumar Githala (Raj, 47.73s); **800m:** 1. Shyam Milan Bind (MP, 1:52.46); **1500m:** 1. Ashok Dandasena (Odi, 3:53.07); **5000m:** 1. Abhishek Pal (RSPB, 14:07.17); **10000m:** 1. Sawan Barwal (Rel, 29:55.50); **Long jump:** 1. Mohd. Muhassin (Ker, 7.06m); **Triple jump:** 1. Sebastian V.S. (JSW, 15.82m); **Javelin:** 1. Shivam Lohakare (SSCB, 71.52m); **Shot put:** 1. Chetan Kapoor (Har, 16.99m); **Hammer throw:** 1. Praveen Kumar (Raj, 62.61m).
Women: 100m: 1. Srabani Nanda (Odi, 12.33s); **200m:** 1. Srabani Nanda (Odi, 24.75s); **400m:** 1. Kumari Dipti (Bih, 1:12.27); **800m:** 1. Aarti Dhillon (Har, 2:17.51); **1500m:** 1. Vineeta Gurjar (UP, 4:26.62); **5000m:** 1. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah, 16:44.26); **10000m:** 1. Jyoti (UP, 34:40.37); **Long jump:** 1. Priya Rathore (Raj, 5.87m); **Triple jump:** 1. Mallal Anusha (JSW, 13.03m); **Discus:** 1. Amanat Kamboj (Pun, 47.18m).

LIVE TELECAST

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

UNFORTUNATE INJURY

Really gutted but some things are not in your control, says Ruturaj

AP

Really gutted to be missing the rest of the tournament. Yes, we have been struggling but now that a young wicket-keeper is leading the team, hopefully, things will change and I'm going to be there with the team. I'd have loved to take this team out of this situation but some things are not in your control — Ruturaj Gaikwad.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

I am at my best when my mindset for the game is right: Venkatesh

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

KKR vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer felt he was in a good mindset ahead of the clash against CSK. "I am at my best when my mindset for the game is right. That has got nothing to do with the runs that I have scored. My approach and attitude towards every game is very good, and I want to carry it forward".

STAYING STRONG

Ponting and Shreyas' advice gives Priyansh a confidence boost

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Jofra Archer did rock back Priyansh Arya's off-stump but thanks to some advice from Ricky Ponting and Shreyas Iyer, the 24-year-old's confidence didn't take a beating. "Ricky sir gave me confidence by saying that anyone can be out first ball. Both Shreyas and Ricky sir never spoke anything negative after the first-ball dismissal," he said.

PENALISED

Royals skipper Samson fined ₹24 lakh for slow over-rate

VIJAY SONEJI

Skipper Sanju Samson has been asked to pay a hefty fine of ₹24 lakh after Rajasthan Royals maintained a slow over-rate against Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League. "As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, Samson was fined ₹24 lakh".

Dhoni to lead CSK after Ruturaj is ruled out for the season

Back in the saddle: Super Kings will hope for a change in fortunes under Dhoni, their talismanic skipper. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Dhoni has led CSK in 212 IPL matches, winning 128 and losing 82 (two NRs)

M.S. Dhoni will lead Chennai Super Kings for the remainder of IPL 2025 after regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the tournament with an elbow fracture.

Ruturaj got hit on his right elbow during the match against the Rajasthan Royals last month but played the next two games against Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings.

"Ruturaj is ruled out of the tournament. He got hit in Guwahati. He's been operating with an amount of pain.

"We got an x-ray, which was inconclusive. And we had an MRI, which revealed a fracture in his elbow, in the radial neck," said head coach Stephen Fleming on the eve of the match against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Thursday.

"We are disappointed and feel for him. We appreciate the efforts that he has gone to in terms of trying to play. Unfortunately, he will be out of the tournament starting now. We have an uncapped player, M.S. Dhoni, who will take over as captain for the remainder of the IPL."

"He (Dhoni) had no hesitation to step up and help guide us out of this if he can," added the former New Zealand skipper.

Dhoni, who has led the Super Kings to all five titles, last captained the side in the 2023 final when it beat the Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad. The former India skipper gave up the captaincy before the 2024 season, passing the baton to Ruturaj.

This will be the second time Dhoni takes over as captain in the middle of the IPL season, having done so once in 2022 when Ravindra Jadeja relinquished midway through the year.

Like in 2022, CSK has had a forgettable start to the season and is just a spot away from the bottom after four morale-shattering defeats in five outings.

It's a sweet homecoming for Rahul as Capitals crush Royal Challengers

The No. 4 batter hammers an unbeaten 53-ball 93 as the team wins at a canter; the host fritters away a fiery start, finishes with a sub-par total

IPL-18

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

K.L. Rahul made light of a heavy load to carry Delhi Capitals to a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

It was a sweet homecoming for Rahul (93 n.o., 53b, 7x4, 6x6), who paced the DC chase to perfection. Rahul slowly built the momentum in search of the 164-run target.

He took his time to settle in, after the visitor stumbled to 58 for four.

When the required rate went close to 11 an over, he unleashed his full range of shots. With three fours and a six in the 15th over bowled by Josh Hazlewood, Rahul put DC ahead of the curve.

Fourth straight win

Now needing a manageable 43 runs from five overs, Rahul doubled down with Tristan Stubbs (38 n.o.) to consign RCB to a second straight defeat at home. DC, on the hand, posted a fourth win in as many matches.

After being asked to bat, RCB frittered away a great start to finish on a sub-par score.

The home side raced to 62 for one in four overs, riding on an electric 17-ball 37 from opener Phil Salt.

Australian left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc bore the brunt of the assault, conceding 30 runs in the third over. Salt's run out changed the course of the innings.

With Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal stuck in the mud, Capitals were allowed back into the contest.

Padikkal (1, 8b), in particular, was tied up in knots.

The RCB innings moved at a snail's pace from overs five to 11 as only 32 runs came off them.

Three big wickets fell in this period as well, putting the home team in a spot of bother. Kohli swatted hard at a delivery floated outside off by Nigam, and skied it to Starc at long-off.

Captain Rajat Patidar (25, 23b) tried to rebuild, but found no support from his batting mates Liam Livingstone (4, 6b) and Jitesh Sharma (3, 11b).

Tim David (37, 20b, 2x4, 4x6) gave the crowd something to cheer about, helping RCB add 36 runs in the last two overs.

Capital performance: Rahul shifted gears in style to power the Delhi outfit home after Vipraj and Kuldeep had put the brakes on the Bengaluru side. K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Phil Salt run out 37 *(17b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Virat Kohli c Starc b Vipraj 22 *(14b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Axar b Mukesh 1 *(8b)*, Rajat Patidar c Rahul b Kuldeep 25 *(23b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone c Ashutosh b Mohit 4 *(6b)*, Jitesh Sharma c Rahul b Kuldeep 3 *(11b)*, Krunal Pandya c Ashutosh b Vipraj 18 *(18b, 1x4)*, Tim David (not out) 37 *(20b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 1 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-9): 15; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-61 (Salt, 3.5 overs), 2-64 (Padikkal, 5.4), 3-74 (Kohli, 6.6), 4-91 (Livingstone, 9.3), 5-102 (Jitesh, 12.2), 6-117 (Patidar, 14.5), 7-125 (Krunal, 17.1).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Starc 3-0-35-0, Axar 4-0-52-0, Vipraj 4-0-18-2, Mukesh 3-1-26-1, Kuldeep 4-0-17-2, Mohit 2-0-10-1.

DELHI CAPITALS
Faf du Plessis c Patidar b Yash Dayal 2 *(7b)*, Jake Fraser-McGurk c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Abishek Porel **(Impact Player for Mukesh)** c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 7 *(7b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 93 *(53b, 7x4, 6x6)*, Axar Patel c David b Suyash 15 *(11b, 2x4)*, Tristan Stubbs (not out) 38 *(23b, 4x4, 1x6)*; Extras (w-7): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 17.5 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (du Plessis, 1.6), 2-10 (Fraser-McGurk, 2.1), 3-30 (Porel, 4.3), 4-58 (Axar, 8.4).

RCB BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-26-2, Yash Dayal 3.5-0-45-1, Hazlewood 3-0-40-0, Suyash **(Impact Player for Padikkal)** 4-0-25-1, Krunal 2-0-19-0, Livingstone 1-0-14-0.

Toss: Capitals; **PoM:** Rahul.
Capitals won by six wickets with 13 deliveries to spare.

Next assignment

RCB: April 13 vs RR
Jaipur, 3.30 p.m.

DC: April 13 vs MI
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

Can Dhoni's return as captain be Super Kings' magic bullet?

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders have eight IPL titles between them.

However, their form in 2025 has been well below the usual high standards.

With time running out, both teams will desperately seek a return to winning ways when they meet at the MAC Stadium on Friday.

CSK has had a nightmarish start so far, lying ninth in the table after a four-match losing streak. Only a miraculous turnaround can salvage the season, and it has to start now.

Can M.S. Dhoni's return as captain be that magic bullet? But the five-time champion's list of woes is huge, encompassing all three facets of the game.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's injury has further dented a struggling batting unit. The think-tank has a task on its hands to decide who replaces him in the starting line-up.

Meanwhile, KKR – which has four points from five games – is searching for consistency, having alternated between losses and wins.

The three-time champion, though, has the resources to turn around its fortunes. Despite the four-run loss to Lucknow Super Giants a few days ago, Ajinkya Rahane's men can take confidence that they nearly chased down 238 with key batters finding form.

Spinners Varun Chakaravarthy and Sunil Narine should enjoy the conditions at Chepauk, and their eight overs could be the key against a misfiring CSK batting unit.

Knight Riders have fond memories of this venue and will look to reignite their title defence at the place where they had their crowning moment a year ago.

Tactical battle: Skipper Rahane will be keen on outsmarting his opposite number Dhoni. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Today's match

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 29
CSK 19 | KKR 10

PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by seven wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Fleming highlights CSK's sloppy fielding; Venkatesh stresses on 'local' knowledge

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

On the eve of his team's IPL clash versus Kolkata Knight Riders here, Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming said that the team's fielding has been "a little bit sloppy" and emphasised that the players have been working hard to improve it. Referring to CSK's 18-run defeat to Punjab Kings on Tuesday, he said: "We had them five for, what, 100? And then, we had mishaps on the field, which I think let them off the hook.

"We saw a fine innings from a young player (Priyansh Arya's 42-ball 103), who had the night of his life, but we had opportunities throughout. Fielding has been an issue throughout the season – the amount of catches dropped. So, we're working hard on that."

KKR batter Venkatesh Iyer said that the likes of Varun Chakaravarthy, Ajinkya Rahane, and Moeen Ali having a good knowledge of the Chepauk ground will be an advantage for the team. "Irrespective of the conditions, I think Varun is a world-class spinner now. Everywhere he goes, people look up to him. But yes, his playing in his home ground is going to be of huge importance. It's going to be a huge factor as well.

"Also, considering that Ajinkya and Moeen Ali played here for two years, I think we've got a good think-tank as well with regards to how this pitch will play." He also highlighted mentor Dwayne Bravo's experience at Chepauk and said that Bravo will be aware of "how to bat and bowl on the ground and what tactics to use".

Spilling it: Super Kings have dropped too many catches. AFP

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	5	4	1	8	1.413
Delhi Capitals	4	4	0	8	1.278
Royal Challengers	5	3	2	6	0.539
Punjab Kings	4	3	1	6	0.289
Lucknow Super Giants	5	3	2	6	0.078
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	2	3	4	-0.056
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	4	-0.733
Mumbai Indians	5	1	4	2	-0.010
Chennai Super Kings	5	1	4	2	-0.889
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	1	4	2	-1.629

** Till the RCB-DC match on April 10*

Sensational Barcelona destroys Dortmund

Lewandowski bags a brace to reach 40 goals for the season while Yamal proves unstoppable for the visitors; Kvaratskhelia's wonder-goal gives Paris Saint Germain the edge over Aston Villa

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Sliding it in: Raphinha scores Barcelona's opener against Dortmund. AFP

Robert Lewandowski hit a brace to help a devastating Barcelona rout Borussia Dortmund 4-0 in a one-sided Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Wednesday.

Hansi Flick's Barca is a step away from reaching the semifinals for the first time since 2019 and extended its unbeaten run to 23 matches.

The five-time winner took the lead against last year's runner-up through red-hot winger Raphinha before Lewandowski reached 40 goals for the season with his double.

Teenager Lamine Yamal was an unstoppable force throughout and deftly prodded home Barcelona's fourth as Dortmund collapsed.

Barca, which last lifted the trophy in 2015 is aiming to seal a final four clash against Inter Milan or Bayern Munich when it visits Germany next Tuesday.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia scored one of the great Champions League goals as Paris Saint-Germain came from behind to beat Aston Villa 3-1 in the first leg of their quarterfinal tie.

Morgan Rogers had given Villa a 35th-minute lead at the Parc des Princes to silence the home fans, but PSG was quickly back level through a fine strike by Desire Doue.

Kvaratskhelia then took centre stage with a stunning strike on 49 minutes, before Nuno Mendes added a crucial third in stoppage time, giving PSG a significant two-goal cushion to take into the return in Birmingham next Tuesday.

Having eliminated Liverpool in the last 16, Luis Enrique's team is now in a very strong position to go on and reach the semifinals for the second season running.

Villa will need to produce a memorable fightback at home if it is to make the last four of Europe's elite club competition for the first time since it lifted the trophy in 1982.

The results (quarterfinals, first leg): Barcelona 4 (Raphinha 25, Lewandowski 48, 66, Yamal 77) bt Borussia Dortmund 0.

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Doue 39, Kvaratskhelia 49, Mendes 90+2) bt Aston Villa 1 (Rogers 35).

Cricket to feature six teams in 2028 LA Olympics

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Cricket will feature six teams battling for top honours when the sport returns to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games after a gap of 128 years.

This was confirmed by the organisers on Wednesday. At LA 2028, cricket will be played in the T20 format, with six teams competing in both the men's and women's competitions.

Qualification criteria is yet to be confirmed but USA is likely to earn a direct spot as host nation. It is expected that top five teams in the ICC rankings within a certain cut-off date will qualify apart from the USA.

Sindhu, Rajawat lose; Kapila-Crasto pair enters quarterfinals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
NINGBO (CHINA)

P.V. Sindhu and Priyanshu Rajawat crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships on Thursday.

Sindhu lost 12-21, 21-16, 16-21 to world number four and third seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in women's singles.

Rajawat lost 14-21, 17-21 against world No. 7 and fifth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan in the men's singles.

It was curtains for Kiran George as well in men's singles, as he lost 21-19, 13-21, 16-21 against Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

India's campaign has ended in the men's and women's singles events.

However, the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto entered the quarterfinals, beating Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan of Chinese Taipei 12-21, 21-16, 21-18. But the other Indian mixed doubles pair of Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh exited after losing 11-21, 14-21 against top seed Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin of China.

The results (pre-quarters):
Women: Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-12, 16-21, 21-16.

Men: Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-14, 21-17; Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) bt Kiran George 19-21, 21-13, 21-16.

Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto bt Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan (Tpe) 12-21, 21-16, 21-18; Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin (Chn) bt Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh 21-11, 21-14.

BRIEFLY

Defending champion Ju Wenjun posted a third win in four games to take a 4-2 lead over Chinese compatriot Tan Zhongyi in the FIDE women's World championship. In the sixth game in Shanghai on Thursday, Ju clinched victory in 52 moves.

Suruchi and Saurabh win mixed air pistol bronze

Sports Bureau

Suruchi Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary beat compatriots Manu Bhaker and Ravinder Singh 16-8 to win the mixed air pistol bronze in the Shooting World Cup in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Thursday.

It was the second medal for Suruchi, who had earlier won the women's air pistol gold. Suruchi and Saurabh had missed the chance to fight for the gold by one point, with their combined score of 581.

In the event, the second Chinese team beat the main team, after both had shot 582 in qualification, to fetch both gold and silver.

China thus climbed further up on top of the table (five gold, two silver and three bronze). India was a close second (four gold, two silver and two bronze).

The results: 1. Chn-2 (Ma Qianke, Zhang Yifan) 16 (582); 2. Chn (Yao Qianxun, Hu Kai) 10 (582); 3. India (Suruchi Singh, Saurabh Chaudhary) 16 (581); 4. Ind-2 (Manu Bhaker, Ravinder Singh) 8 (579).

Getting there: Gout Gout's both timings were wind-assisted so did not officially count. AFP

Australian schoolboy Gout runs sub-10s 100m twice

ATHLETICS

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Australian sprint prodigy Gout Gout dipped under the magic 10-second mark for the 100m twice on Friday to showcase his burgeoning potential, but both times were wind-assisted so did not officially count.

Gout rose to prominence in December when he clocked the quickest 200m time ever by a 16-year-old (20.04 secs), bettering Usain Bolt's personal best at the same age.

Now 17, he powered home in his 100m heat at Australian Championships here in 9.99, then clocked the same time in the final. "That's what I was hoping for," Gout said.

Bopanna & Shelton pair in the quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Ben Shelton of USA knocked out third-seeded Italians Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori, 2-6, 7-6(4), [10-7] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €6,128,940 ATP tennis tournament in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Other results: $200,000 Challenger, Mexico: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli bt Ray Ho (Tpe) & Matthew Romios (Aus) 3-6, 6-3, [10-7].

€145, 250 Challenger, Madrid: Doubles (quarterfinals): Inigo Cervantes (Esp) & Denys Molchanov (Ukr) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & David Hernandez (Esp) 6-4, 6-2; Francisco Cabral (Por) & Lucas Miedler (Aut) bt Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-2, 6-4;Orlando Luz (Bra) & Albano Olivetti (Fra) bt Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul) 7-6(2), 7-6(4).

Indian boys lose to Australia

Sports Bureau

Seventh seed Australia beat India 3-0 in the second league match of the Asia-Oceania World Junior Tennis under-14 boys championship in Kuching, Malaysia, on Thursday.

It was the second defeat for India, following the one against top seed Korea. India will play its last league match against Pakistan on Friday.

The results: League: Australia bt India 3-0 (Novak Palombo bt Paranjay Siwach 6-2, 6-2; Aidan Chan bt Viraj Choudhary 6-1, 6-1; Christian Joseph & Novak bt Paranjay & Kaustubh Singh7-6(5), 5-7, [10-5].

Hopeful of getting Sports Governance bill passed: Mandaviya

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The National Sports Code has been a tricky issue for successive governments for a long time but the Sports Ministry is confident of finally getting it cleared in the near future.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who has been proactive in trying to settle long-pending administrative issues in Indian sports, has insisted that his only interest was developing and promoting the country's sports and sportspersons and that he would continue to push for the adoption of the National Sports Governance Bill 2024 at the earliest.

"I have to do what is right and good for Indian sports, my responsibility is towards the country's sports and sportspersons," he made it clear during an interaction on Thursday. The minister reiterated that he would do everything possible to convince everyone and get the Bill passed soon.

He also expressed confidence that India would be getting hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games despite Canada and Nigeria throwing their hats into the ring at the last minute. The 2030 CWG will be a preparatory event towards the real big event the government hopes to organise – the 2036 Olympics. "Everyone is welcome to express their interest but we are confident of getting it," Mandaviya said.

If successful, it will be the first big-ticket multi-discipline event in India since the controversy-marred 2010 edition and a big step towards strengthening India's claims for 2036.

A decision on the same is expected to be made over the next 18 months by the IOC under the newly-elected president Kirsty Coventry.

Mandaviya also announced youth initiatives by the ministry to further social participation and the Fit India movement, including a week-long visit with cultural and sporting activities in May at border villages under the Viksit Vibrant Village Campaign by volunteers selected through My Bharat portal applications.

The MYAS will also organise padyatras across all state and UT capitals on April 13 and cleanliness drives in every district around BR Ambedkar's statues the next day to mark his birth anniversary. The ministry is also actively considering encouraging chip-based cycles to monitor and award carbon credits to encourage cycling for fitness.